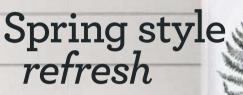
More Ideas More Tips More Style What's inside matters most...

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In this issue...

...refresh your style for spring with beautiful new-season buys.

Design a colourful feature wall to give any room a **bold focal point** (page 26) or enjoy an air of calm with a nature-inspired palette of lichen and limestone (page 42). Find out how to reinvent coastal style on a budget

(page 34), create your own **sleep**

sanctuary with our definitive guide to beds on page 134, and be a creative cook with home-made pizza recipes (page 144). Plus, discover the best wellbeing apps to help you feel calm and collected

(page 165). Spring we're ready for you!



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ON THE COVER VOLUME 192 ISSUE 1

Beautiful buys and decorating ideas to try in your own home

Find new-season accessories to take your scheme into spring

Liven up rooms with these exciting . treatments for walls

Be inspired by four reader homes, plus stylish kitchen and bathroom projects



Create a fun feature wall with our decorating tips

Bring cool Scandi style into your home with this fantastic new range

Learn how to update a room with neutral geometric pattern

Design a modern coastal look for less thanks to some savvy buys

STYLING CAROL WORTLEY-BISHOP PHOTOGRAPH DAVID BRITTAIN



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SHOPPING DIRECTORY FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS FEATURED IN IDEAL HOME, TURN TO

Go back to basics with artisan buvs

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My to-do list for March

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

hores are on my mind, with a big spring-cleaning binge on the horizon, shopping trolleys to test and new decorating colour schemes to plan...

SPRING CLEANING I tend to be a bit of a sluggard over the winter months, but once it's warm enough to keep the windows open I get the energy up to tackle the Big Jobs. Saturday mornings (after a stiff treble espresso to gird the loins) will find me in the back garden shaking clouds of dust out of curtains, on my hands and knees scraping carbonised pizza cheese off the oven floor, or scrubbing the Venetians with a damp, inside-out sports sock on each hand. You never really know a house until you've poked your vacuum's dusting attachment into all its nooks and crannies, or marked your territory with spray and polish. Always on the hunt for a game changer, I'll pick a new cleaning product to give a proper try-out: this year I want to see if Lakeland's Bio-Mex multipurpose cleaner (£9.98) betters my long-time favourite, JML's Doktor Power (£4.99). BEING A TROLLEY DOLLY I need a new shopping trolley. I bought a proper granny-style one years ago, being car-free in London and struggling home from Camden Morrisons with a bag of groceries hanging from every finger. Once, a friend hid my garden gnome in

on the checkout before I could pack my shopping, to the amusement of all around. But the frame broke during my last house move and now the 5p plastic bag charge has forced the issue. I'm weighing up my options, having seen a cute retro-flower-print one in Lakeland (£39.99) but also considering splashing out on a rather lovely wicker one

(£72) from prettymaison.co.uk. Either way, I'll be the envy of the farmers' market! BUYING INTO COLOUR As a child of the Seventies, I have a deep affinity for bold colours that the 'magnolia years' failed to quash. When I first saw the new spring/summer homeware ranges on the high street, it lifted my heart to see so much colour. Trends aside, in my eyes, the biggest story in interiors right now is colour - and how our attitudes to it are changing. From big. splashy florals and Rio 2016-inspired tropical tones to smooth Pantone colour of the year, Rose Quartz, the delicious colours will be hard to resist this year, even for the most faithful neutrals fan!

Vanessa

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor



HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobs, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

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Create a unique side table using a crate. Decorate the inside with old book pages, sheet music or leftover paint or wallpaper

High shine Team this pendant with a squirrel bulb for an industrial twist Smoked glass pendant light, £65, Next

Flower bed Go for fresh, ditsy florals

Daydream double duvet set, £15, Bellezza range, George

Mood of

the moment

Let the light in

TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





 $\begin{array}{c} \textit{Pretty prints} \\ \textit{Stick to the wall with strips of} \end{array}$ brightly coloured washi tape Postcards, £1.25 each,

Rastall & Daughters



Keep things personal with an initialled cup A to Z 'M' floral



Homely touches Wooden ornaments add warmth Houses, from £12 each, Dickins & Jones Home range, House of Fraser



Throw back the curtains and fling open the windows - it's time to blow away the winter cobwebs and enjoy the

first glimpses of spring colour

MICHELA COLLING. STYLE EDITOR



Instant storage Scandinavia ladder bookcase (H175cm x W64cm x D39cm), £70, Wilko



Vintage vibe Why not use for make-up brushes?

Tumbler, £4, At Home with Ashley Thomas range, Debenhams



 $Mellow\ yellow$ Pop on the bed for extra comfort and colour Oran cushion, £49, Urbanara

Forever spring The wooden flowers will add a cheery touch all year Foxglove & Campion set, £32, Anna Wiscombe







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March SHOPPING IDEAS

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Light show Create a laid-back look with a rattan shade in a two-tone weave Sira rattan pendant, £70, Habitat



Dash for it Flip it over to find the reverse print on the back Anni cushion, £22, Lotta Jansdotter range, John Lewis

With the grain Go for a piece with back-to-basics style Chopping board,

£14.99, H&M



Everybody's doing Artisan style



Super bowl

TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

From hand-made pieces to designs inspired by traditional crafts, this pared-back style celebrates

the maker and natural materials, too HOLLY CATFORD, ACTING STYLE AND DECORATING ASSISTANT Full marks Each pot is hand crafted for a unique marble effect Teapot, £35, Nom Living Liven up a pared-back scheme with a hit of blue Small dip bowl, £5, Mythology range, Marks & Spencer Hot stuff Sharpen up with geometric details Triangle oven glove, £15, All in a row Murmur range, Present nibbles on a Houseology wooden centrepiece Extra large antipasti platform platter, £24.99, Very

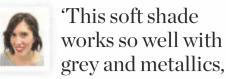


Baas of style Fill with magazines for a rustic storage solution Split wood basket, £25, Next

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March SHOPPING IDEAS



but for a fresh finish combine it with white. adding a highlight accent of black to bring the trend right up to date'

MICHELA COLLING. STYLE EDITOR

Test of time A simple Danish design with long-lasting appeal Steel stand clock in Nude, £44, Menu range, The Scandinavian Shop









Glow for it Put a tealight inside this votive for pink radiance Pink striped hand cut glass tealight holder,

£5.50, Oliver Bonas

Cool pendant Hang a trio over a marble-topped breakfast bar Bell pendant in Old Rose, £172, Northern Lighting range, Cloudberry Living

> Hot wire A side table that doubles up as a chic basket Medium wire basket in Rose with smoked oak lid, £116,

Ferm Living range, Amara





GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget



Finished with a brass handle Anoa glass lantern, Woven



Glam glass Perfect for dining alfresco Glass hurricane lantern, Matalan



Harlequin



Standing tall Arrange a few of these on a windowsill Rustic pillar candle, £2, Primark

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Layered print
Soft lines make for
an updated retro look
Assemble/Configure
cushion, £66, Laura Slater

The next big thing...

New Memphis style



This artistic mix of colours and graphic shapes is sharp, bold and modern

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR

THE STORY SO FAR The Memphis Group began life in Milan in the early Eighties. It was founded by Ettore Sottsass alongside other architects and designers, with the aim to create products to counteract minimalist design. Inspired by Bauhaus, pop art and African textiles, the collective added a graphic dimension to furniture and fabric using block shapes in colourful combinations. Today's homeware designers are now revisiting this playful style and its signature palette of punchy pastels, warm yellows and striking black accents. WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT Italian

furniture company Kartell showcased never-before-seen furniture, lighting and vases designed for Kartell by Sottsass at Milan Design Week in 2015. Since then, designer shop Darkroom London has paid tribute to the movement with Sottsassinspired plates, cushions and stationery. Ferm Living has also given a nod to the style, using inky blue and grey to refresh its geometric prints, while Laura Slater's textile designs include more relaxed layers and lines to bring the look up to date. LATEST RELEASES German brand Hem landed in London last year - check out its Alphabeta lights and textiles featuring grid patterns and confetti designs. Habitat went all-out with a bold Memphis-inspired collection last season; new this year are the more subtle Malo oak shelving unit, the geometric Silo rug and the Leri and Pepae vases. Also worth a look are Giannina Capitani Studio's Tic-Tac and Etto abstract knitted cushions.







You might not think of heading to the supermarket to stock up on chic dinnerware, but the new Copenhagen collection at Sainsbury's will make you think again. The store's in-house

designers have taken inspiration from the mid-century modern movement to create gorgeous patterned plates and bowls with a hand-drawn, illustrative feel, as well as geometric-printed

linens in buttery tones and striking monochromes. Layered together, they create a dining table with wow factor.

It's not a style that will date any time soon and can be incorporated alongside your existing plain crockery. Prices start at just £3 for a side plate and as the range will be expanding across lighting, stationery, cushions and even bedding, it's easy and

affordable to bring this distinctive trend to all areas of your home.

More inspiring homeware collections are in the pipeline from Sainsbury's later this year, and the company will be dedicating even more floor space to non-food products, with more local stores stocking the home living ranges. Your weekly shop just got a whole lot more stylish.

◆ Follow our blog homeshoppingspy.com for more style news, ideas and fabulous finds ◆





CITROËN GRAND C4 PICASSO

The Citroën Grand C4 Picasso is the first MPV in its segment to break the 110g CO₂/km barrier with the BlueHDi 150* delivering up to 72.4 MPG." With its ultra-flexible 7-seat interior, 360° Vision Parking, Keyless Entry and Start, and Panoramic Windscreen, it's no wonder it's been voted 'Best MPV' by both What Car? and Auto Express for two years running.





CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE





This month's high-street hero... Fiona Lambert

Meet the woman behind Asda's George homeware brand and discover how her passion for design turned into a career

iona Lambert, vice president of product design and development of Asda's George range, has worked alongside its founder, George Davies, from the beginning. 'When we launched the George clothing range in 1990, Asda was the first supermarket to sell clothes and now it's the third-biggest supermarket clothing retailer,' she says. 'With this success, we saw an opportunity to provide our customers with the same quality and design credentials in an inspirational range of homeware, making it as easy and affordable for them to update a home as it is to update a wardrobe.

As well as overseeing a team of designers and buyers, Fiona conducts research into trends. interpreting them into inspiring products. The new spring/summer 2016 collection covers six key themes, from an Italian-inspired look to a celebration of British wildlife

and country gardens. 'I'm really proud of the collections,' says Fiona. 'They prove that you can deliver great design at an affordable price.'

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Born in the Midlands, Fiona grew up close to both towns and countryside. 'As a child, I was very arty - I used to draw and paint,' she says. 'I was raised to appreciate the countryside, and enjoyed picking and pressing wild flowers. My mum was a dressmaker, so I was surrounded by clothes and made mini versions for my dolls. I've still got a sketchbook of my designs from when I was 11 - they would be spot-on trend now with the Seventies revival!'

A good all-rounder at school, Fiona set her heart on being a designer and decided to do a degree in fashion design at Nottingham Trent University. 'When I left university, I got a job as a designer and pattern cutter at Next,' she says. 'The company was growing rapidly and I learnt a lot. I was very lucky to work with George Davies there. I consider him my mentor. He's the person who has most heavily influenced my career - he set the bar high on performance and it was a sink-or-swim environment, but he gave me the best opportunities and it was an environment that I flourished in.'

The turning point in Fiona's career came when George asked her to work with him on a new project in 1989. 'He said, "I can't tell you who it's for, I can't tell you what it is, but it's going to be exciting", she says. 'So I decided it was worth the risk to

be part of something entrepreneurial and new, and I went for it.'

Since then, George has changed the way customers shop. 'The growth of online purchases and social media means that customers demand constant newness,' says Fiona. 'I'm very focussed on the customer and believe in innovation - that's how you stay successful. It's about trying to create products that make life easier.'

A PEACEFUL HOME

'I believe you

should buy

carefully and buy

well, and invest

in beautiful

homeware'

Fiona has lived in Leicester since 1986 and shares her Arts and Crafts



house with her husband and children - daughter, Georgia, 22, and son Charlie, 19. 'My house is very light and airy with lots of windows and a beautiful garden,' she says. 'It's definitely my sanctuary from a very hectic life. It is quite calming and I try to keep it simple with pale colours and signature accessories, then add cushions and paintings for personality.

'I believe you should buy carefully and buy well, and invest in beautiful homeware. You can change your clothing every day, but you're going to walk into a room and see the same things, so you've got to love them. I take joy from the paintings and decorative accessories I've bought, and placing them against a neutral backdrop helps them to really sing."





COPPER COOL A keen cook, these saucepans get plenty of use in Fiona's kitchen Triply saucepans, £80 for



TRENDSETTER

Fiona feels that last year's Alexander McQueen exhibition, Savage Beauty, at the V&A museum had a huge influence on fashion and home trends



RUSTIC STYLE These pretty tile lookalikes will sit well on any table Tile coasters, £4 each, Bellezza range, George

Fiona's inspiration...



GET TO KNOW HER SIGNATURE STYLE Having worked in fashion for 30 years, much

of Fiona's interiors inspiration comes from textiles and the world of fashion. 'To work in design, I think you have to be a human sponge for everything around you - whether it's travel, world cultures, other designers, the catwalk or art exhibitions,' she says.

Fiona also believes that popular art and entertainment is having an increasing impact on people's taste and interior-design style. 'TV is such a big part of everyone's lives now,' she says. 'Programmes, such as Downton Abbey and Indian Summers, have had a huge influence, whether it's a demand

for beautiful cut glass and crystal or Indian-style furniture.'

Fiona's motivation comes from a very wide spectrum. 'Having a career in design means you never really switch off and you find inspiration in everything you see and do,' she explains. 'As a team at George, we gather inspiration from lots of different places, then it's about how we edit and curate that for people to be able to visualise it in their homes. We separate our personal taste from our customers' taste, as our role is to think about what they would like. The items we design won't necessarily be to my taste but they will have my standards of quality and integrity, and, hopefully, they'll include my love of interior design and I can share that with the customer, too.'



FLOWER POWER

Brighten a bedroom with

patchwork floral bed linen

Stippled double duvet set, £12,

Impressions range, George

EARTHY SHADES

mosaic-effect vase Tile vase, £4, Bellezza

Add interest with

a characterful

RETRO ROOTS One of Fiona's favourite shops growing up was the high-street fashion store Chelsea Girl shopping there fuelled her interest in design

STUNNING STORAGE A chic place to stash trinkets Jewellery box, £12, Impressions range, George



PLATE UP Rustic-style crockery is perfect for casual dining Garda dinnerware, £25 for a 12-piece set, Bellezza range, Georg



Make yourself at home

The dresser. It's our secret to effortless order and relaxed elegance.

The Suffolk 4ft dresser hand-painted in Shell: £2,165, Stratton step stool: £245, and Corinium jugs: from £8









GENTLE GREYS

Create a soothing effect with touchable textiles in warm greys and heather accents

Lakeland Loop carpet in Silverhow, £33 per sq m, Brockway range, John Lewis. For a similar purple cushion cover, try the Ben Ledi Lowland Tweed, £68, Anta. Double Madison bedspread in grey, £259, Melin Tregwynt. For similar grey fabric, try the LF758C/80 Claystone, £57 per m, Iona I & II Weaves collection, Linwood. For similar porcelain **cups**, try the Tipple, £14 each, Rebecca Callis Porcelain. Turtle Dove matt emulsion (in dish), £39 for 2.5ltr, Sanderson range, Designerpaint

Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

Choose your base colour Whether \perp it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

Add an accent tone A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

Find the right accessories These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.





CANDY CRUSH

Be bold with a painterly print in a juicy palette



TEAL & WATERMELON

Make an impact with bursts of lively colour

LPU1285 flooring, £29.49 per sq m, Quick-Step. Brecan runner, £120, Habitat. Six-peg rail, £41, Scumble Goosie; painted in Vardo Oil Eggshell, £55 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Coral notebook and pen, £11.95, Ted Baker. For a similar paint, try the Mid Lead Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. White jug, £12, Design Vintage

the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

THE PAINTED BOX RULE

The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

AND FINALLY... Always add a surprise. A focal point - whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art - is the short cut to a 'wow' room.



If walls could talk...

What would yours say? Express yourself and create an original look with one of these fresh ideas for feature walls

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 32













Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





HALLWAY DECORATION AND FURNITURE Wall painted in Quartz Flint 4 matt emulsion (top), £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Paint Mixing range, Dulux; Vardo Estate Emulsion (bottom); stripe painted in Yellowcake Estate Emulsion; both £39.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. White vintage oak LPU1285 flooring, £29.49 per sq m, Largo collection, Quick-Step. Brecan

grey wool blend runner, £120, Habitat. Nornäs sideboard, £130, Ikea; painted in Ammonite Estate Eggshell, £55 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Six peg rail, £41, Scumble Goosie; painted in Vardo Oil Eggshell, £55 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Round seagrass basket, £90 for two, Luma. ON/IN SIDEBOARD (from left) Coral notebook and pen, £11.95, Ted Baker range, Amara. Butterfly teal organiser, £22, Paperchase. Tassel **key ring**, £15, Biba range, House of Fraser. Yellow Demi vase, £25, Habitat. Neon ribbons, £4.95 per roll, The Makery range, Wild & Wolf. Porcelain bowl, £6, Design Vintage. Happy Hare artwork, from £85, Luma. White ceramic vase, £12.50, Design Vintage. Turk vase, £30, Habitat. Dröna boxes (in sideboard), £2.50 each, Ikea; covered in Lamont Red Coral, £65 per m, Romo. Children's shoes, from a selection, Next. Owl lunchie, £13.99, Nubie, ON PEG RAIL Gallery mirrors with leather straps, £59 for two, Very

DINING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Wall painted in Gauze Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr; panelling painted in James Intelligent Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr; both Little Greene. LPU1285 flooring, £29.49 per sq m, Quick Step. Pinner **table**, £1,195; **bench**, £495; **chairs**, £395 for two; all Heal's. Rhubarb cabinet, £695, Loaf. Sherbet pendant, £75, Graham and Green, Baskets. from £29 each, Olli Ella. **ON/NEAR DINING** TABLE Amalfi cushion, £40, Graham and Green. Lara table runners, £13.99 each, LinenMe. Jar, £5, Waitrose. Dinnerware, from £7 for a side plate; **teapot**, £28; **jug**, £14.50; all Denby. Sedlig cutlery, £40 for 24 piece set, Ikea. Vase, £10, Habitat. Bubble tumblers, £48 for four, Oka. ON WALL Clock, £29; Virserum frames, from £10 each; Söndrum frames, £8 each; all Ikea; painted in Trumpet Intelligent Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. ON MODEL Dress, £24, Cath Kidston. Cat toy, £38, Rowen & Wren



P LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Dimity Estate Emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Kyoto Ivory KT997 flooring, £88 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Nova Kilim rug, £175, Olli Ella. Chelsea coffee table, £399; Marchwood sofa

in Sutton Smoke, £2.695; Stanford sideboard. £999; all Content by Terence Conran. Pebble high gloss side tables, £119 for two, Danetti. Manhattan armchair in Linwood Omega Smoke, £1,579, Multiyork. Stockholm glass door cabinet, £275, Ikea. Grayson floor lamp, £160, John Lewis. Azim Indigo wall art, £26 per m, Voyage Decoration: frame painted in Aquamarine emulsion, £21.98 for 2.5ltr, Valspar range, B&Q. ON COFFEE TABLE Tall porcelain bowl, from £33, Design Vintage. Ceramic Origami bird, £3.99; teal glass **candle**, £2.99, Elements range: both Dunelm. Large Leyla plate, £24, Oka. Deacon mug, £10, Habitat. ON SOFA Cushions, from left: made in Lamont Red Coral, £65 per m, Romo; made in Highlander Teal F0848/27, £17 per m; piped in Vienna Citron, £24 per m; both Clarke & Clarke: Citrine, £42, Oka, ON LEFT-HAND SIDE TABLE Concrete table lamp,

£45. Next. Butterfly teal organiser, £22. Paperchase. Deacon mug, as before. ON ARMCHAIR Plain velvet cushion, £46, Oka. Kaarna throw in Turquoise, £70, Luma. IN CABINET (from top left) Grey picture frame, £5, Habitat. Porcelain Wobble vase, £12.95, Nordic House. Sera vase, £15, Habitat. White porcelain jug, £12, Design Vintage. Coral Mesh rice bowl, £21.95, Luma. Box Box storage box, £39 for five, Hay range, Amara. Arcturus Amethyst vase, £42.50, Voyage Maison. Box Box storage box, as before. ON RIGHT-HAND SIDE TABLE Blue crackle vase, £25 for three, Rocha. John Rocha range, Debenhams. Raindrop notebook, £8, Paperchase. ON SIDEBOARD Selene vases, £60.50 each, Voyage Maison. Ceramic snack stack **bowls**, £24.95 for three, Mini Moderns range. Wild & Wolf. Box Box storage boxes. as before. Haverdal picture frame, £5, Ikea





BEDROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Wall painted in Brilliant White emulsion (top); Desert Bloom emulsion; both £21,98 for 2.5ltr, Valspar range, B&Q. IM1859 flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Quick Step. Herringbone rug, £135, Luma. Shutters painted in Yellowcake Estate Eggshell, £55 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Bed, from £597, Scumble Goosie; painted in Welcome Pale Intelligent Eggshell,

£53 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Ekby Hemnes shelf, £12, Ikea. Crate on wheels, £65, Design Vintage. Playroom table, £242; Playroom chairs, £175 for two; pouffe, £120; all Nubie. ON/NEAR TABLE Mug, £7.95, Wild & Wolf. Stationery, from a selection, Paperchase. Pillow, £18, Rowen & Wren. IN CRATE Lunchie, £13.99, Nubie. ON/NEAR BED Strips duvet set, £20, Habitat. Cushions, from left: Sala, £20, John Lewis; Elle Elephant, £29, Nubie; made in Indi Zest, £33.15 per m, Kai range, Graham Sanderson Interiors; Dots, £30; Mr Frank Fox, £29; both Nubie; navy, £30, Graham and Green. Pillow, £25; garland, £19.50; both Olli Ella. Blue Poppy eiderdown, £68; Bandit the Racoon teddy, £38; both Rowen & Wren. Trainers, from £13 per pair, Next. ON/ NEAR SHELF (from left) Slätthult stickers, £4, Ikea. Suzette the Cat teddy, £38, Rowen & Wren. Little Tommy **puppy**, £25, Steiff. Framed **print**, £45, Olli Ella. Gabriella toy, £22, Nubie. Button hook, £39, Out There Interiors. Sheep, £3; jar with eggs, £6; both Paperchase. Elephant, £45

for two; Skateboard Rabbit **picture**, £19.50; both Design Vintage. **ON WINDOWSILL** Neon rabbit **money box**, £3, Paperchase

OFFICE DECORATION AND JEURNITURE Wall covered in self adhesive cork tiles, £33.45 per sq m, Walls and Floors. IM1859 **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Quick Step. Cubist rug, £250, Habitat. Klimpen/ Oddvald desk, £80, Ikea. Eames style chair, £49, Danetti. ON DESK Metal lamp, £170, Nordic House. Cork lens box, from £25, The Do South Shop. Coral **folder**, £2.50, Hema. Karena **box** set, £35, Habitat. White porcelain jug, £12, Design Vintage. ON WALL Anya pegboard, £40, Rowen & Wren. Perpetual calendar, £25, Rockett St George. Valje wall cabinets, £17 each, Ikea. Postcards and washi tape, all from a selection, Paperchase. Delia clock, £25, Habitat. IN WALL UNITS Magazine tray, £18; Frances bird, £10; both Habitat. Tuscan notebook, from £12.95, The Do South Shop

FEATURE SARITA SHARMA PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE MODEL INGRID NICHOLLS



Bathrooms matter. Visit the experts.



CASH CLEVER **Decorator**

Get a cosy coastal look for less than £150

Reinvent seaside style with inspiration from dramatic moody skies and the wild shoreline

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





Get the look whatever your budget







Low tide Softer greys have a tranquil vibe Shi Shi Beach print (H122cm x W91cm), Alan Majchrowicz range, Art.co.uk

Pillowcase.

TOTAL

The Linen Works

£149.50

Mix slate blues and warm greys to create a soft, tonal scheme, then add accessories with stripes, checks and dots for a cosy, casual feel YOUR RECEIPT Cushion. Anthropologie..... Hurricane lamp, John Lewis...... Marks & Spencer....£8 Idyll Home.....£17.50 Basket Notonthehighstreet.com.....£16



Find more cosy coastal buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Opt for a lighter version of this look with a palette of pale blues and greys, or keep it nearly neutral using almost all white with highlights of inky blue.

TRY IT IN THE LIVING ROOM Take a look at the Coastal range from Sainsbury's for tactile finishes and

bubbled glassware - perfect for giving your living room a fresh but cosy feel. ...OR IN THE BATHROOM Create a relaxing space to unwind in with Dunelm's New Purity range, which includes textural wicker storage and hand-painted bathroom accessories.







FIND ALL THE DETAILS (PREVIOUS PAGE)

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Tranquil 110505 wallpaper, £54 per roll, Harlequin. Floor painted in Woad 251 floor paint, £59 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Jute and leather rug in natural and blue, £160, French Connection. Burdock king size bedstead in Desert, £595, Button & Sprung. Odin armchair, £650, Graham and Green. Baya side table, £395, Lombok. ON/NEAR BED Parisian Blue king size duvet cover, £195; Lens Charcoal housewife pillowcases, £30 each; Parisian Blue housewife pillowcases, £30 each; Parisian Blue Dot throw, £185; all The Linen Works. Agnes

blanket, £185, Toast. Cushions, from left: Dimus in grey, £60, Lombok; made in Plateau Aqua/Slate/Hemp 131117, £46 per m, Harlequin; Dittisham dip dyed panel cushion, £70, Lauren Aston range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Willow chest, £90 for three, Soak & Sleep. Large Dove Grey Cloud basket, £39, The Basket Room range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Broad stripe blanket (on chest), £59.95, IdvII Home. Soft Bands throw (in basket). £14.99, Dunelm. ON CHAIR Woollen Pom cushion, £48, Anthropologie. ON SIDE TABLE Bermondsey oak table light, £100, Garden

Trading. Skyline **bowl**, £110, Karen Howarth range, Madebyhandonline.com. Amberley jug, £18, Croft Collection range; Colour Theory Scandi photo frame, £15; both John Lewis. Small **bowl**, from a selection, Marks & Spencer. ON WALL Berrow III Left print, £240, Neptune. Lack wall shelf in white, £15, Ikea. ON SHELF (from left) Stone and glass large hurricane lamp, £30, John Lewis. Marble candle, £8, Marks & Spencer. Two vase, £17.50, Idyll Home. Scratched **bottle vase** in grey, £9.99, Dunelm. Small Dove Grey Cloud basket, £16, The Basket Room range, Notonthehighstreet.com



PICK THE

Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Choose neutral geometrics

WHY WE LOVE THEM Muted geometrics have a calm feel thanks to their understated palette, while their structured patterns mean they're still bold enough to create impact. They make an ideal backdrop or a good statement point in modern homes on which to layer stronger colour and prints. WHERE TO USE THEM Better suited to large rooms or feature walls, geometric wallpaper can be used to smarten up a neutral living or dining-room scheme, where it will add a contemporary touch while maintaining a classic look. Soft designs create a calm ambience in a bedroom - layer graphic cushions and throws on plain white bedding

for a cosy feel, or frame your bed with an eye-catching striking hexagon design.

HOW TO USE THEM Some intricate designs contain optical illusions and create a 3D effect. so use carefully. Patterned textiles look very effective on chairs, cushions and curtains. but stick to a simple palette and prints of a similar size so that the furnishings don't clash or compete with each other.

THEM Team with linear pieces such as multifaceted vases. sculptural lighting and bold, angular furniture. Geometric rugs are a great way to inject a flash of pattern without monopolising the space.

HOW TO ACCESSORISE

3 places to buy **GRAPHIC**

Blendworth Trv Montoro, a small-scale geometric fabric in the Parador collection. which has a mosaicinspired design. From £40 per m.

Mvfabrics.co.uk Find hundreds of geometryinspired fabrics in a range of colours and patterns, starting at just £4.75 per m. Villa Nova The Loki collection of prints and

weaves includes Attis, Adamas, Oshima and Loki, all featuring abstract geometric motifs, from £30 per m.





design without overpowering vour scheme'

Karen Bray, Acting Features Editor



SMART SLUMBER A diamond trellis design based on a Thirties pattern is perfect for a glamorous bedroom Mimi in Light Grey, £89 per roll, Sandberg range, Wallpaperdirect

BE SQUARE Soft geometric tile designs create a fresh contemporary feel in a kitchen-diner Chalk Tile wallpaper, £75 per roll, Peggy collection, Louise Body

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on 3D geometric wall papers





BOX CLEVER This striking 3D effect is ideal for a modern feature wall Muriva Cubix wallpaper, Wilko

£14.97

Subtle symmetricals

Update your scheme with geometric patterns

Jagged edges Metallic touches on this

Aztec-inspired wallpaper enhance the simple print Muriva Eton in grey, £10.97 per roll, Wilko

Flower

This stylised floral would look great in a modern bedroom Vibration M1022, £12.98

per roll, Wallpaperdirect

Angled effect

Add a splash of colour with this tiered triangle print in a Scandi palette Textured Geo in Teal, £15 per roll, Next

Panelled pattern

The clever use of shading on this design creates a 3D effect

Geometric wood panelling UN3204, £15.98 per roll, Wallpaperdirect

Oriental influences

Go for detail with this intricate motif Juan White, £20 per roll, Graham & Brown

More over the page...





The Swedish design company's new wallpaper collection is inspired by the country's rich heritage

THE COMPANY Based in western Sweden, the Sandberg Studio designs all of the Sandberg wallpapers in-house. Each piece is hand drawn and painted, with colours and patterns that are inspired by the Swedish landscape and its native plants and animals, as well as paying homage to the country's historical and cultural heritage. The result is an original, contemporary range of premium wallpapers infused with a distinctive Swedish style.

THE NEW COLLECTION Taking inspiration from designs spanning two centuries, Tradition is a historical collection of wallpapers from both grand manor houses and humble cottages. Comprising eight diverse

designs, the collection is a stylish and modern reinterpretation of wallpapers, from rich 18th-century Rococo and Gustavian styles through to a reconstruction of a Twenties original. Featuring nature-inspired flora, fauna, birds and butterflies, as well as symmetrical patterns and medallion and stripe motifs, these timeless designs will look equally at home today as they did hundreds of years ago. WHY WE LOVE IT This unique collection gives a wonderful insight into the wallpapers that once formed the backdrop to Swedish life. From

soft neutrals to dainty blues, these

delicate prints are the perfect way

to update a traditional look.

What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



Affordable luxury.

54 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE search for "Wren Kitchens"





COLOUR SCHOOL

Lichen & limestone

Reinvigorate your home with a fresh yet calm palette of pale green and soft beige

> FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Found in nature, these *airy shades* are easy partners. Use an equal mix of the two, then add shots of bright white to stop them looking murky. Subtle colour mixes need pattern for interest, so work in textural and botanical prints, and use faux or real *plants and flowers* to underline the colour palette's natural inspiration



THE PALETTE

Go natural with these relaxed shades

LEAF GREEN Keep the look fresh with this hue SOOTHING PUTTY Choose this soft shade to add warmth and depth

CREAMY NEUTRAL A great off-white for walls

Linen Wash Absolute Emulsion, £27 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene





See all the details & more ways with limestone over the page

Try it with... BLACK

Smarten it up with a monochrome look. Be subtle with black frames or fabrics, or go all-out with a dark feature wall

Softer shade Add a hint of grey Birch linen Francesca, £15.99 per m, LinenMe



Blackbeauty Choose a bold floral trail Lloyd wallpaper, £34 per roll. Laura Ashley





Try it with... **TERRACOTTA**

For a Mediterraneaninspired look, team this stony shade with warming terracotta. Add brick-coloured accent pieces and tonal prints to liven up the neutral base

Prints charmina Statement patterns help tie the shades together Austin Henna fabric, £62.50 per m, Tremont collection, Romo

Floor it Stay in neutral WV905 Wool Venice Fawn, £55 per m, Crucial Trading

Feel the heat Add an intense hue See In The Dark £35.50 for 2.5ltr Fired Earth

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Drop Cloth Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Herb Garden B402 flooring, £40 per sq m, Bell Twist collection, Brintons. Ektorp three-seater sofa in Blekinge White, £275; Ektorp Jennylund armchair in Sagmyra Grey Check, £165; both Ikea. Arundel oak coffee table, £590; Chichester 4ft glazed rack dresser in French Grey, £1,850; both Neptune. Console table, £550; side table, £375; both Flinton range, Laura Ashley. Outdoor arched window mirror, £125, Cox & Cox. ON COFFEE TABLE Wild Flower jam jar, £3.45, Rose & Grey Bothy pot, £6.50; recycled-glass tumbler, £26.50 for four; both Garden Trading. TY5 tray, £19, Scumble Goosie; painted in Lichen Estate Eggshell, £53 for £2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Hand-made pressed flower **jug**, £90, Petersham Nurseries. Elegant recycled-glass vase, £17.50, Pastel Lane. ON/ NEAR SOFA Cushions made in (from left): Linara

Lovage 2494/250, £35,50 per m. Romo: Dawn Chorus in Linden/Slate, £32 per m, Sanderson; Dardanella 120415 in Linden/Emerald, £42 per m, Harlequin; Milani Lovage 7729/22, £55 per m, Romo; Dardanella 120415 in Linden/Emerald, as before; Anoushka Plains 130053 in silver, £48 per m, Harlequin. Wood basket, £35, Idyll Home. Dylan Check Steel throw, £50, Laura Ashley. ON CHAIR Cushions made in: Dawn Chorus in Linden/Slate; Linara Lovage 2494/250; both as before. Herringbone throw in Sage, £89.95, Bronte By Moon. ON SIDE TABLE Wild Flower jam jar, as before. Jacinthe bulb vase, £9.90, Hen & Hammock. Medium Megeve table lamp in reclaimed elm, £105, Garden Trading. ON/NEAR CONSOLE TABLE Hanging birdcage feeder, £45 for two, Cox & Cox. Potted Boston faux fern, £29.50, Rose & Grey. Jacinthe bulb vases, as before. Wave vase, £25, Idyll Home. Tall Megeve

table lamp in reclaimed elm. £135, Garden Trading. Smoked oak hanging poster frame, £36; Urban Botanicals fern **print**, £55; both Rose & Grey. **ON/IN DRESSER** (from top left) Wirework nesting trug in Gooseberry, £42 for two, Garden Trading. Mini cloches, £11 each, Hen & Hammock. Botanical Fern Study No3 art print, £16.50, Notonthehighstreet.com. Muddy Green crackle-glazed decorative ceramic bottle, £12.50, Pastel Lane, Wave vase; hanging birdcage feeder; both as before. Potted frosted snowdrops, £10.50 each, Rose & Grey. Botanical Fern Study No1 art **print**, £16.50, Notonthehighstreet.com. Hand-made pressedflower vase, £165, Petersham Nurseries. Fern vase, £25, Debenhams. Victorian terracotta plant pots, from a selection, Petersham Nurseries. Wirework nesting **trug**, as before. Potted frosted hellebore, £11.50 each, Rose & Grey



Give your living room a stylish look with the Liberata's broad clean lines and luxury Italian inspired design. harveysfurniture.co.uk

Liberata Sofa in grey leather shown with Marylebone Storage Coffee Table.



Harveys





Take down those dusty drapes and give your windows a fresh new look for spring

ne of the easiest ways to give a room a new look is to update the window treatment. Whether it's a colourful sweep of floral fabric that brightens up a wintry room come springtime, or statementmaking shutters in an unexpected colour choice, it can make the world of difference to a room.

Before you consider materials, set aside the style options and think first about the practicalities: the size and shape of the windows; how much light and privacy you will need; and how much you can afford to spend.

With these essentials in mind, deciding on a style, pattern and colour will fall into place more easily. We've come up with some bright new ideas and practical advice to help you, so you can create the look you want with ease.



Window updates **DECORATING IDEAS**



'Make narrow windows seem wider by extending the curtain pole past the window (around 30cm each side). Pull back curtains to leave most of the glass exposed'

LISA FAZZANI, SHOPPING EDITOR







Create symmetry
Unify a pair of side-by-side windows by dressing them identically. For a grand, sumptuous effect, double up with Roman blinds teamed with floor-length curtains hung from poles - a formal treatment that suits tall, narrow windows in period properties

Curtains in Harewood Dijon fabric, from £235 for a W100 x L160cm curtain; blinds in Sion Mimosa fabric, from £166 for a W60 x L60cm blind; both Style Studio

Add pattern to glazing

A more stylish option than frosted or textured glass, decorative film can help you maintain privacy without sacrificing natural light in your room. Perfect for street-facing windows or kitchens and bathrooms where floaty voiles or curtains might get in the way, laser-cut patterns like this dotty design add a decorative touch Frostbrite FB041 film, from £21 for a 50cm sq panel, The Window Film Company



IDEA Order window film pre-cut to your own specifications, so you can apply

it yourself with ease



'For a neat effect, hang blinds inside the window recess if there is one, or outside the window frame if there is no recess'

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR





mades, buy longer and hem them' HOLLY CATFORD. ACTING STYLE AND DECORATING ASSISTANT

'Don't skimp on the length of curtains - they should always touch the floor. With ready-

Go for café chic

Brighten up a kitchen window with a cheery café-style curtain - perfect if you need a little privacy at an overlooked window without blocking out too much light. Make your own with a short length of fabric just hem the bottom and sew a channel slot at the top then slip onto a telescopic curtain rod

Telescopic tension rods, from £3.30 for a L60-100cm rod, Wilko

Make a seasonal swap

It's a good idea to swap heavy winter drapes for something lighter and airier in spring. Make it a doddle with easyto-sew tie-top curtains in a lightweight fabric. They'll need no linings, rings or tapes - you simply tie them into place on your curtain pole, job done

Delphine fabric in Charcoal F0428/01, £19 per m, Clarisse collection, Clarke & Clarke

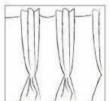
KNOW YOUR CURTAIN HEADINGS

The heading you choose can have a dramatic effect on the overall look. Here's all the essential info you need...



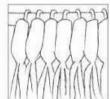
PENCIL PLEATS

Suitable for tracks or poles and most fabrics, this simple heading is made using curtain tape, which has cords that are pulled to gather the fabric into pleats.



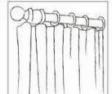
TRIPLE PINCH PLEATS

More formal than the pencil style, these pleats are held in place with stitching. It uses more fabric in order to create a fuller-looking curtain.



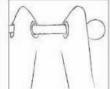
GOBLET

This sumptuous gathering made of sewn in aoblet shapes is ideal for formal rooms. It uses more fabric than standard pleats and suits heavy fabrics.



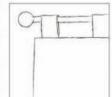
CARTRIDGE

A contemporary version of the goblet, the pleats form large, cylindrical folds, not sewn into place, to give a more relaxed look. It also suits heavier fabrics.



EYELET

Modern and unfussy, this has metal eyelets that slot straight onto a pole. It uses less fabric than standard headings and can be used with light or heavyweight fabrics.



TAB TOPS

An informal heading made with loops of fabric sewn to the top of a curtain panel. Slips directly onto the curtain pole and is suitable for light and heavyweight fabrics.





Joya Aqua Valance Rollers

For a look you'll love living with, choose Hillarys made-to-measure window dressings. With a wide range of styles available, our collection will leave you spoilt for choice. And not only that, there's hundreds of colours to choose from, including contemporary brights and geometric patterns as well as soothing creams and greys.

Boutique HOTEL SPY

The Laslett

We took a sneak peek into this gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

LOCATION Set across five Victorian mansions on Pembridge Gardens, The Laslett is less than a minute's walk from London's Notting Hill Gate tube station - which means it is ideal for exploring the local scene, but is within easy reach of the city centre. **ROOMS** The Laslett has 51 bedrooms that look and feel more like a friend's stylish town house than a hotel, and range from cleverly compact 'spare rooms' to super-spacious 'master bedroom suites', giving the hotel a home-from-home vibe. Modern furniture from British names, such as Pinch Design, sits alongside more quirky items, including antique-shop finds and photographs by local artists. FAMOUS FOR Celebrating its local heritage. In a neighbourhood as

fabled as Notting Hill, this newcomer has its own tale to tell. Taking its name from Rhaune Laslett, the organiser of the Notting Hill Festival (later retitled Carnival), and with its Henderson Bar named after the late jazz musician and local personality Russell 'Russ' Henderson, the hotel takes inspiration from the area's vibrant, cool culture.

CELEBRITY GUESTS Having only opened late last summer, The Laslett is too young to give the names of any of its more notable guests. However, being nestled in such an affluent and trendy part of town, with stars such as Stella McCartney, Robbie Williams and Claudia Schiffer all having homes in the area, spotting a celeb while you're out and about should be easy.







Good all rounder

Has a compact shelf for your bedside bits Clyde side table in walnut, Pinch Design



IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever the budget



Quiet time

Use this pale shade to give your room a soothing feel Mono Intelligent Matt Emulsion, Little Greene



Grey day

A classic grey that teams well with white woodwork Grey Steel 2 matt emulsion, Paint Mixing range, Dulux



LOVE THE LOOK

Layer nickel, pewter and soothing heather for a calming scheme, then add interest with subtle prints

For more moodboards turn to page 22



Breaking the rules has given our home impact'

Find it hard to pick just one style of décor? Follow Jo and Mark Fitzgerald's lead and mix up different looks for a unique, show-stopping interior

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

£450,000 £460,000 £1.2million



THE PROPERTY

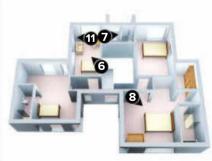
A five-bedroom, detached self-build in Croyde, Devon. The site was bought in January 2013.

WHAT IT COST

£395,000
£10,000
£20,000
£25,000
£10,000
2460,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Jo and Mark Fitzgerald live here with their three children, Finley, 12, Leo, 10, and Eva, eight. Mark runs a recycling business.



GROUND FLOOR ▶ The front door opens into an open-plan living, kitchen and dining area. There's an office and a loo off this room, and a corridor leads to

THE LOOK

Spacious, light rooms are filled with an eclectic mix of vintage and modern furniture. Large statement pieces and colourful accessories provide interest against a neutral backdrop.

LESSONS LEARNED

See Research and plan ahead as much as possible. I had wanted polished-concrete flooring in the downstairs living areas, but didn't realise in time that it needs a certain depth, which we didn't have. I ended up having to hunt quickly for an alternative floor surface.

▼ FIRST FLOOR

Finley and Leo's bedrooms and shared bathroom are at the front of the house, while the main bedroom and Eva's bedroom. both with en suites, are at the rear



2 Living area The couple kept the background neutral. 'There are a few pops of colour, but I want the items in this room to be the focus,' says Jo For a similar sofa, try the Eleanor, £2,549, Furniture Village. For a similar pendant, try the Chipsy, £218, Eglo range, Ocean Lighting

a TV room and a guest bedroom



erial renovators Jo and Mark Fitzgerald had lived in several properties in their home city of Birmingham, but the idea of a more relaxed, rural lifestyle was always in the back of their minds. 'We wanted to improve our work-life balance,' says Jo. 'A home by the sea and the outdoor life that comes with it was always top of our wish list.'

But it was only when Jo was chatting with a friend who had recently settled in Devon that things started to fall into place. 'She said, "Why don't you come here? It's got everything you talk about." I knew that she was right,' says Jo.

Within months, the couple had sold up and were house-hunting in the county's surfing hotspot of Croyde. Things were challenging from the start. 'The high prices were a shock,' says Jo. 'There was limited choice within our budget and, although we weren't fazed by the idea of doing work on a property, everything we saw needed major refurbishment.'

They eventually bought a two-bedroom, Seventies bungalow, with the idea of modernising and extending it, but, as they discussed ideas with their builders, it became clear that they'd have to rethink their plans.

'The bungalow wasn't especially well built or attractive, but it was on a good-sized plot,' explains Jo. 'We were advised to knock it down and start again. Building a house had never been on the agenda before, but there's definitely a frustrated designer in me. The prospect was nerve-racking, but exciting, too.'

Working with an architect, Jo drew up plans for a bold, contemporary, two-storey family home. Her previous renovation projects had given her plenty of experience when it came to deciding how their new house should feel and function. 'In a previous property, we'd had a separate dining room that we rarely went into, and I learned from that,' she says. 'I think every inch of a house should be lived in and used.'

A light-filled, open-plan kitchen, dining and living area was a must-have, so too was a guest suite, separate bedrooms for Finley, Leo and Eva, and a TV room, where the children could relax. Once the design was finalised and planning permission granted, the family moved into a short-term let. The bungalow was demolished







3 Living area
To create a sense of flow and continuity in the open-plan layout, the same porcelain floor tiles were used in the different living areas New York Brooklyn tiles, £45 per sq m, Mandarin

Stone. For a similar table lamp, try Chrome tripod, £135, Giltwood Gallery

4 Kitchen

A trio of contemporary pendant lights creates a focal point over the island, which doubles as a breakfast bar

Grande lampshades, £80 each, Habitat. For similar reclaimed metal letters, try In The Woodshed





and the build began. Jo and Mark felt the pressure from day one. They had just six months to get the new house habitable, before their rental contract expired. The pace was slower than Jo had expected and, within weeks, their budget was rapidly being reached. 'Huge bills were coming in and we were going to run out of money if I didn't do something,' she says.

So, with Mark away working for much of the time, Jo shouldered the task of project-managing the build, overseeing finances and sourcing all the materials. She spent her evenings online, researching components and tracking down the best prices for every item, from bath taps to windows and guttering. During the day, she worked alongside the building team, laying underfloor heating pipes, fitting insulation and shifting tonnes of building materials. 'Labour was a big part of the overall cost and we needed to save money,' she explains. 'Mark and I had

a big "to-do" list every weekend, leaving no time to meet new people, take the children out or just relax. It was stressful for everyone.'

However, they pressed on and managed to move in within the six months. Most of the interior was still undecorated and the outside was shrouded in weatherproof sheeting, but they had heating, bedrooms and a functioning kitchen and bathrooms. From then on, tasks were completed as their finances allowed, and Jo did as much as she could herself. 'I couldn't spend thousands on a decorator, so I painted all the bare plaster walls, which took about four weeks,' she says. 'My elbows ached, but it just had to be done.'

Jo's very personal interior style is a feast for the eyes. Vibrant colours pop out against a neutral backdrop, and iconic modern furniture sits alongside weathered wooden pieces, eye-catching artwork, feature lighting and rustic, artisan pottery. She shops widely on ->

5 TV room

The children's space is bursting with bright colours, with a bold wall panel and vibrant cushions. Jo spraypainted the French mirror to give it a new look Circus wallpaper panel, £335. Cole & Son range. Rockett St George. For a similar sofa, try Dillon corner sofa in Duck Egg, £2,499, Sofa Workshop





6 Finley's room
Jo created her own geometric mural behind the bed, using masking tape to ensure crisp lines.
Pops of bright red and orange lift the grey and

white scheme
Brasa pendant light, £39, Ikea. Cobweave green throw, £48.99, Tweedmill range, Coast & Country Interiors

7 Bathroom
Finley and Leo share the monochrome bathroom, which is accessed through a sliding door in each bedroom. 'I wanted a masculine feel and something a bit out of the ordinary in here,' says Jo Geometric Cube Décor floor tiles, £96 per sq m, Mandarin Stone



8 Main bedroom

With a pale ash floor and white walls, the room could take the inky-blue colour Jo wanted for the feature wall. She painted the canvas herself

Walls painted in Deep Sea Dive emulsion, £21.98 for 2.5ltr, Valspar range, B&Q. Ottori bed, £1,400, Habitat

Guest bedroom

Curtains brought from the couple's previous home inspired the opulent gold and grey colour scheme. The artwork was an eBay find Scribble Stem duvet cover, £80, Orla Kiely range, John Lewis. For a similar mirror, try the Kelford, £78, Wayfair

the high street and is an avid online bargainhunter, but her favourite venues are French flea markets. 'I always go for strong pieces that can hold their own, but I don't think you have to stick to one single look,' says Jo. 'My only rule is that there are no rules.'

With the house finally finished, the family is now immersed in the local community and enjoying the outdoor life they relocated for. Jo has taken on a new challenge, running a B&B from the house (ellevencroyde.co.uk), with guests staying in the downstairs suite.

Looking back, the couple can see how they could have made the building process easier, but there are no regrets. 'We weren't well-prepared, especially financially,' Jo admits. 'Even so, if we hadn't had that can-do attitude, we'd never have achieved what we have. I'm proud of what we've created and I can see us doing it again one day.'





Get Jo's look

Mix up styles to create a living space that's full of character

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S side table £129



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'We took our time to get perfect results'

A sensitive update is sometimes all that's needed to create a stylish family home, as Jo and Dominic Arnold's house proves

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BOUGHT FOR

£350,000 £100,000 £800,000

NOW WORTH

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, terraced, Victorian house in Brighton, East Sussex, built in 1880. The owners bought it in July 2005.

WHAT IT COST

Building work	£33,000
Plumbing	£10,000
Electrics	£10,000
Kitchen	£8,000
Solar panels	£5,000
Bifold doors	£6,000
Garden room	£18,000
Furniture and	
soft furnishings	£10,000

TOTAL....£100,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Dominic and Jo Arnold live here with their three children, Georgia, 14, Poppy, 13, and Daisy, seven. Dominic is director of his own property consultancy and Jo splits her time between running the home and helping out as a design consultant for Dominic's company.



THE LOOK

Understated, practical and elegant, with a strong focus on Scandinavian and French design.

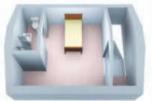
LESSONS LEARNED

Take your time when you move into a house to find out how you'll actually use the space on a day-to-day basis.



▲ GROUND FLOOR The living room is at the front, leading through to another living area and the kitchen. The dining area at the rear has access to a utility room





▲ SECOND FLOOR Georgia's bedroom and en suite are in the converted loft

◀ FIRST FLOOR The main bedroom is at the front of the house, with Daisy's bedroom adjacent to it. Poppy's bedroom is at the back of the house, next to the main bathroom







3 Dining area

Bifold doors open up the room to the garden. Painted furniture lends subtle colour and interest to the white scheme For a similar dining table, try the Sophia farmhouse table, £1,525, Oka. For a similar mirror, try the Clematis, £93, Wayfair

4 Kitchen

A vintage shelf provides a focal point above the sink. Below, open shelves break up a run of units and make crockery easy to access For a similar wall shelf, try the Country Kitchen peg rail shelf, £59.99, Abode Boutique

o and Dominic Arnold caught the building bug while living in their previous house - a Victorian villa in East Sussex. 'It was a top-tobottom refurbishment,' explains Jo. 'Our daughter, Georgia, was a baby at the time and we ended up corralled in one room for several months while the work took place. Perversely though, we enjoyed it and that's what spurred us on to tackle other projects, including our current home.'

Having worked on various properties in and around the Brighton area for their work, the couple increasingly appreciated the charm and wonderful seaside location of the town, and Jo spotted their present house while she was viewing another one nearby.

'Dominic and I were both really taken with it,' she says. 'It was in a quiet area, nestled between two parks, not too far from the sea and within walking distance of good schools. And, best of all, there was plenty of scope to make this property our own. After working on so many other people's homes, it was great to be able to focus on creating something special for us.'

As managing director of his own propertydevelopment company, Dominic and his staff were used to dealing with demanding clients. However, when he and Jo instructed ->





5 Family room
Mirrors and white walls help to bounce light around the internal space, while wooden furniture adds warmth to the room

For a similar armchair, try the Glenmore upholstered occasional chair, £550, Laura Ashley



his firm, Cocoon Property, to redesign their new house, expectations were understandably rather high. 'The team that worked on the project told us we were their most "discerning" clients to date,' says Jo. 'I decided to take that as a compliment.'

Sensibly, the Arnolds decided to live in the property for a year or so before doing any work to it. This allowed them to decide how best to use the space for their needs, and also to see how the light would fall in the rooms at different times of the day.

It was time well spent, as they decided to reconfigure some of the existing rooms and build a small extension into the side return. The work was relatively straightforward, as it came within permitted development rights and, therefore, didn't require planning permission.

Thanks to the extension, the ground floor now has a utility room, cloakroom and a wider kitchen. The couple kept the front living room as it was, but altered the rest of the downstairs layout. 'By demolishing the supporting wall between the family room and hallway, we created a large, open-plan living area,' says Jo. 'We kept the double-glazed doors between the living room and the rest of the ground floor, so we can open up the entire space if we want to.'

Upstairs, the couple enlarged the family bathroom by taking a little space from an

adjoining bedroom, while the attic room was replanned in order to fit in an en suite.

Jo was also keen to implement Dominic's idea of installing solar panels. 'We wanted to minimise our carbon impact and, simultaneously, reduce our energy bills,' she explains. 'It is a long-term investment, of course, but we have already seen a return.'

Another energy-saving idea the couple had was to insulate the downstairs floor to reduce draughts. 'One of the things I enjoy most about the house is the beautiful, exposed, original floorboards,' says Jo. 'We didn't want to lose their Scandi look, so we took up the entire floor, insulated below it and relaid it, so the space is now super cosy and chic.'

However, the renovation wasn't all plain sailing. 'When the wrong boiler was delivered, it had a knock-on effect, stretching a six-week timescale to 10 weeks,' says Jo. 'We also →

6 Hall

'With three daughters, it's important to maximise storage, so our joiner designed and built this handy understairs cupboard space,' says Jo For a similar stool, try the vintage wood stool, £65, Design Vintage. For a similar basket, try the Rope basket, £9.99, Dunelm

7 Bathroom

'I wanted to create an elegant room and used the oversized mirror to increase the sense of space,' explains Jo
Laundry basket, £39, Pale
& Interesting. Trend bath, £709, Bathstore. For a similar wall cabinet, try the grey, £113, Melody Maison











② Landing

Jo found the chair on the pavement and had it reupholstered. 'I love the nooks and crannies of the house and this chair is the perfect fit for this corner,' she says For a similar chair, try the Provencal Linen Lady's chair, £475, The French **Bedroom Company**

• Main bedroom

An ornate, French antique side table and embroidered quilt lend an elegant feel to the space Vintage bedside cabinet painted in Paris Grey Chalk Paint, £18.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan. Valencia quilt, £180, Cologne & Cotton

'One of the things I enjoy most about the house is the beautiful, exposed, original floorboards'

had a continual leak into the kitchen ceiling, which was a major concern until we traced it to a faulty sash window in the room above.'

Once everything was repaired and the builders had left, Jo was able to get started on furnishing and decorating the interior of her home. Her aim was to create a practical and elegant space for modern family living, taking inspiration from Scandi style, with cool neutral shades and warm grey accents.

In the kitchen, Jo decided against wall units to maximise the width of the room and to make it feel more spacious. 'Natural light here comes from bifold doors that extend across the back of the house, while mirrors around the room maximise the light, especially the oversized one in the family room,' she says.

Sleek painted finishes continue into the living room, which is a stylish, calm space with dappled light filtering through the wooden plantation shutters. 'I love the unifying effect of paint,' says Jo. 'You can get exactly the right colour and finish - and it's very hard-wearing, too.' In the main bedroom, the colour palette was built around the grey marble surround of

the fireplace, and Jo added interest by introducing areas of pattern. I made the bed the focal point by adding large gingham cushions and an embroidered quilt,' she says.

In Daisy's room, neutral grey gives way to splashes of red and pink. 'I enjoy hunting for vintage finds that I can repurpose,' says Jo. 'The armoire, chest of drawers and wall unit are all restored second-hand pieces.'

Vintage furniture is also used in the main bathroom, where Jo has combined classic and contemporary looks to great effect. 'I love the modern take on a freestanding bath; it provides the perfect contrast to the period-style taps and painted vintage wall cabinet, while the bespoke mirror doubles the sense of space,' she says.

Having now lived for a decade in their Brighton home, Jo is eager to take on more challenges. 'We've worked on so many properties in the last 10 years and have so many new ideas of our own - it would be good to put them into practice,' she says. 'We recently visited Morocco and brought back some fabulous rugs and wooden pieces - and that just inspires me all over again!'



Get Jo's look

Create a relaxed, modern scheme with white, grey and black

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1 Kitchen The modern extension is sympathetic to the 17th-century cottage's history, thanks to its concrete flooring and timber frames creating a stylish mix of old and new For similar pendants, try the Nordlux Slope 1 light bowl, £51.99 each, Wayf LOOK Every corner of our house tells a story' Giuliana Cortese and Simon Shaw have created a welcoming home that genuinely bridges the gap between ancient and modern

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





2 Kitchen-diner Wooden furniture echoes the room's oak beams. 'We like pieces with a story,' says Giuliana. 'Simon grew up with the pine chairs and the **Verner Panton ones** reference a time when the designer inspired him' For a similar designer

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BOUGHT FOR

£470,000 £150,000 £850,000

NOW WORTH



THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, 17th-century cottage with a contemporary extension in Cuddington, Buckinghamshire. The owners bought the property in July 2008.

WHAT IT COST

Building work	£103,000
Glazing and windows	£20,000
Bridge	£4,000
Kitchen	£8,000
Bathrooms	£15,000
TOTAL	£150,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Giuliana Cortese and Simon Shaw live here with their daughters, Francesca, 10, and Scarlett-Grace,

seven. Giuliana runs a cookery school and Simon is the chief creative officer of an international communications agency.

THE LOOK

Old meets new, with a clever mix of historical and contemporary features. Natural colours and textures, such as stone, wood, lime plaster, concrete and marble, create a harmonious feel.

LESSONS LEARNED

🏰 If we did it all again, we'd employ a heating consultant because balancing the heating needs of the old and new structures is a challenge. 🥦

■ FIRST FLOOR

At the far end are the main bedroom and en suite, with two further bedrooms. A steel bridge leads to the new extension. where there is a fourth bedroom, family bathroom and a balcony



GROUND FLOOR ▶

The front door opens into the living room. To the left, there is another living room and a study, with a cloakroom to the right. The kitchen-diner is at the back

chair, try the Panton,

£208, Vitra range, Heal's





imon Shaw and Giuliana Cortese live in a home that tells a story - not just in the history that's embedded in the architecture of their 17th-century cottage, but in the new extension they've added, too. 'Our cottage is Grade-II listed,' says Simon. 'When renovating it, we resisted the temptation to finish everything off perfectly, as it would be hard to read the narrative of the property. For example, we left parts of the original reed wall uncovered and where we removed the old roof, I left some of the rafters and old nails exposed.'

However, the glass-and-wood extension that Simon and Giuliana added is dramatically modern. It was important to be clear that the new part of the property was introducing our story, so anyone who comes here - now or in years to come - will understand how the building was put together,' explains Simon.

The couple had decided to move out of London to a Buckinghamshire village in July 2008. When viewing their end-of-terrace cottage, they immediately liked it and, although very little had been changed over the previous 30-odd years, the property was a good size with four bedrooms and a Fifties extension.

Simon, who trained as an architect, saw it had great potential. 'Upstairs had a good head height instead of low beams, so I knew that ->







'Simon doesn't see the architecture and interiors as being two separate things. The property's architecture became the palette for the interiors'





if I introduced light into the building, it would feel airy,' he says. He was so keen to start on the project, he drew up plans for the new extension before the sale had even completed. 'We had £150,000 to spend and I had everything planned out before we began,' he says. 'It was actually better this way, as it meant there were minimal changes on site.'

After the sale went through, the family moved into the cottage, but it wasn't easy to live in at all. The Fifties extension leaked and while the cottage walls were constructed from traditional wychert (white clay mixed with straw), their modern plastered finish trapped moisture, which made the rooms damp.

Simon got started on the restoration work straightaway, tackling the project room by room, but continuing to work full time as a creative director in London. Evenings and

weekends were spent stripping back the walls and reinstating them with traditional lime plaster and a lime finish that would allow them to retain heat and breathe again.

During this time, Simon had a pre-planning meeting with the local planner and historicbuildings officer for the new rear extension. He showed them his 3D model of the twostorev contemporary building, which would become a new kitchen-diner with a bedroom and bathroom above. 'The extension is four times as large as the old one, but it's set away from the neighbours to protect their light, with a flat roof to avoid adverse views from the street,' Simon explains. 'I talked about how the building would work for us as a family and they were both very receptive.'

It wasn't until January 2011 that the old extension was finally knocked down and ->

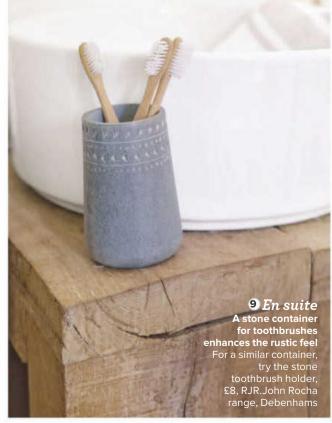
6 Main bedroom

'We wanted this space to feel minimal and the focus to be on our bed, so we left part of the old wall to form the headboard,' says Simon For a similar bed, try the Plymouth, from £777, Bed Frames UK. Original BTC Task wall short lights, £186 each, Heal's











Exterior

The ultramodern extension complements the historic property, as it's a contemporary take on materials used in the old cottage, with timber frames instead of exposed beams and rendered walls instead of limestone plastered ones the building work began. The oak timber frame was put together on site by hand rather than being constructed in a factory - a deliberate design choice that was made by Simon. 'I wanted to use a modern interpretation of the old materials in the new parts of the house,' he explains. 'So the construction of our new extension is a contemporary version of the old cottage's timber frame.'

This concept is at the heart of the interiors, too, where ideas spring from the materials used in the architecture. 'Simon doesn't see the architecture and interiors as being separate things,' says Giuliana. 'The architecture became the palette for the interiors. For example, the grey polished concrete on the floor reflects the grey millstone in the walls of the cottage.'

It's a similar story throughout the property: new oak and cedar sit alongside exposed old beams and modern oak doors with stainlesssteel hardware stand next to reclaimed timber



'Our new extension is a contemporary version of the old cottage's timber frame'

doors with black fixings, while rendered walls emulate traditional limestone plastered walls.

One of the outstanding design features is the steel bridge that links the old cottage with the new extension, designed by Simon but inspired by the work of Italian architect, Carlo Scarpa. 'We've visited Scarpa's Querini Stampalia Foundation in Venice many times,' says Simon. 'We love the way the old and new have been combined and see different details each time.'

Giuliana and Simon's project took 15 months to complete, allowing them to finish the next chapter of the cottage's architectural story. The couple are delighted to see their home grow and change with them. 'We want the interior to be a reminder of the history that has gone on before, but also a reflection of our family history that we're still creating,' says Giuliana. 'We want every corner to be invested with a story, so that our home will always be evolving as we add new pieces to it.'

£35

Keep it

simple
Hang three
in a row for a
subtle partition
Tibbon white
pendant ceiling
light, B&Q

£21



Get Giuliana's look

Team old and new for a unique kitchen-diner, then finish with some splashes of zesty colour

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Top table
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Speakeasy table (H76cm

x L180cm x D95cm), Loaf



Shot of lime
Liven up a table with this vibrant
basket that's perfect for fruit
Basket Gradient in Flat Green,

Pols Potten range, Amara

Sunny delight
Use a block of bold colour to

add character to a plain sofa
Barington yellow linen
cushion, Habitat

modern feel Monsoon vase, Maisons du Monde

Chic planter Enjoy fresh herbs without the hassle Small self watering herb pot, Eva Solo

range, Houseology

£30

£24.99

£69

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPH ALISTAIR NICHOLLS

Cool curves Contrast a simple wooden table with a

sculptural plastic chair Curve one piece chair, Dwell Statement sofa
A trusty leather Chesterfield adds
a classic touch to any room
Chesterfield sofa in Old Saddle
leather (H79cm x W240cm
x D99cm), Delcor



£575



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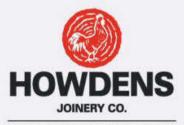
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£385,000 £62,000 £550,000

NOW WORTH

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, end-of-terrace, Seventies house in Cambridge, which the owners bought in 2012.

WHAT IT COST

Building work	£15,000
Furniture	£35,000
Windows	£12,000
TOTAL	£62.000

WHO LIVES HERE

Alicja and Graham Cockcroft live here, with their children, Matas, 11, and Nina, nine. Alicja is an artist and an interior designer, while Graham is director of studies at a school specialising in business English.

THE LOOK

Contemporary and bright, with bold artwork against an elegant, simple background.



LESSONS LEARNED

44 It's a good idea to live in a house for a while to see how it works for you before deciding to make any big, structural changes. ""



■ SECOND FLOOR The main bedroom is at the front of the house. There's a bathroom off the landing and the children's bedrooms are at the rear



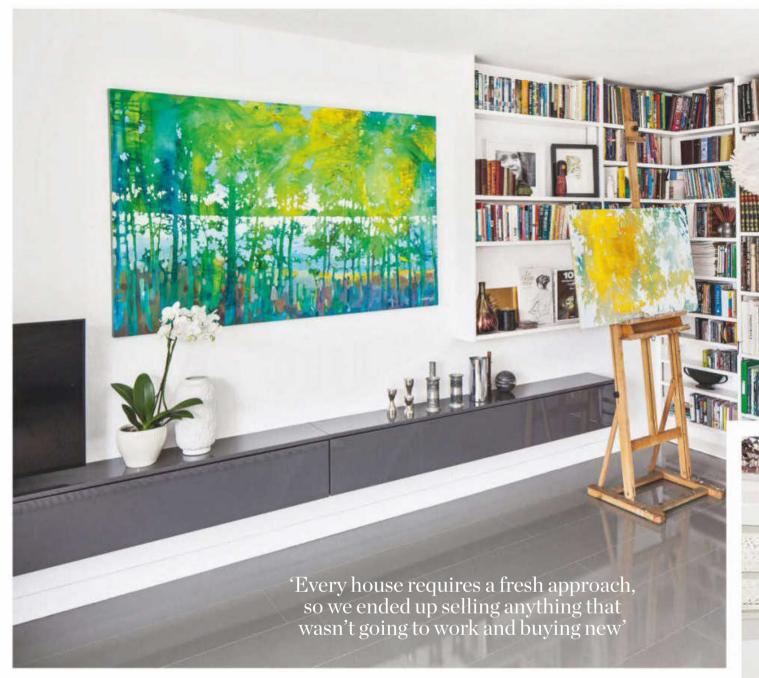
FIRST FLOOR ▶ There's an office to the right of the stairs and an open-plan library/ art studio area takes up the remainder of the space



■ GROUND FLOOR To the left of the hallway is a quest bedroom and straight ahead is an open-plan kitchen-diner and living room







hen Alicja and Graham Cockcroft relocated back to the UK after living in Poland, they faced the challenge of finding a home that would be as large and airy as the new-build apartment they'd had in Warsaw. 'The windows were huge and let in so much light,' explains Alicja. 'Any future home had to have something of the same style and lots of natural daylight.'

The couple rented a flat in Cambridge while they searched, and eventually found a house in Trumpington, in the south of Cambridge, which they could see had potential. However, they knew they would have to modernise the property and spend quite a lot on it. 'We were lucky enough to be cash buyers after selling

our Warsaw apartment, so our offer, which was £10,000 less than the asking price, was accepted, thankfully,' says Alicja.

Although the house had been extended previously, the couple felt the layout would benefit from further rejigging to free up space and access the all-important natural light. As many of the neighbours had done, they started off by turning an integrated garage into a guest bedroom. Then a skylight was fitted on the second-floor landing, through which light now filters down the stairwell into the hallway. 'Now, instead of walking into a dark, gloomy entrance hall, light streams through it,' says Alicja.

Sliding glazed doors were fitted to the back of the house to allow even more light to flood in downstairs, and an open-plan area was created on the ground floor, so that the ->

3 Library/ art studio

The made-to-measure bookcases make use of every available inch of space, and ensure that the area is free of clutter For similar bookshelves, try the Billy, from £25, Ikea. Aurora Vita Eos feather pendant, £84, Graham and Green



4 Staircase Instead of painting the stairs white, Alicja covered the treads with resilient vinyl
White vinyl flooring,
£28 per sq m, Colour
Flooring Company

6 Library/ art studio

makes a strong statement on the floor, while Alicja's stunning painting injects a burst of bold colour Vittorio corner sofa, £999, Made.com. Mastercraft Mehari rug, from £69, Rug Merchant

A vibrant patterned rug







6 Main bedroom

Picking out tones from an artwork hung above the bed, the couple went for golden accessories to contrast with the room's calm neutrals

For similar cushions, try the Mustard distressed velvet, £20 each, BHS

2 Bathroom

A mirrored wall beside the bath, plus a large mirror above the basin, make the room appear far more spacious, while spotlights put light right where it is needed

Skogsvåg mirror, £19, Ikea. For similar spotlights, try the Logan four spotlight bar, £60, John Lewis

kitchen-diner and living room flow seamlessly in and out of each other. Decking leading from the living room into the garden encourages a year-round indoor/outdoor feel.

The Cockcrofts hit a problem when damp was discovered in the corners of the rooms. Ivy on exterior walls was partly to blame, but mainly it was down to poor ventilation. So they installed a dehumidifier on the staircase to circulate air and remove moisture. Damp aside, transforming the house was a smooth process and once the builders had finished, Alicja turned her attention to the décor.

'I measured each room, then started to look for interesting items,' she says. 'Although we brought some things from our old home, my feeling is that every house requires a fresh approach, so we ended up selling anything that wasn't going to work and buying new.'

Alicja is an artist who has recently started an interior design business, AZ Interiors. Her vibrant paintings provide splashes of colour and texture in the neutral scheme. Quirky accessories, vintage lighting and one-off finds add to the eclectic vibe.

The Cockcrofts now love their bright and airy home, which they feel is in just the right spot. 'We're on the edge of the city and we look out onto fields and grazing animals,' says Alicja. 'Our windows are the biggest pictures of all.'





Get Alicja's look

Use brown and green tones for a restful bedroom scheme



Orangey orb
Crafted from mouth-blown glass in a striking amber tone Ribe pendant lamp, £125 . Urbanara







Jungle fever Pull your colour scheme together with a lush piece of art Jungle print on canvas, King & McGaw



Chevron chic Choose monochrome chevrons for a busier look or plain grey for calm Jamali double quilt, Swoon Editions



Notch chest of drawers (H85cm x W100cm x D40cm), Dwell



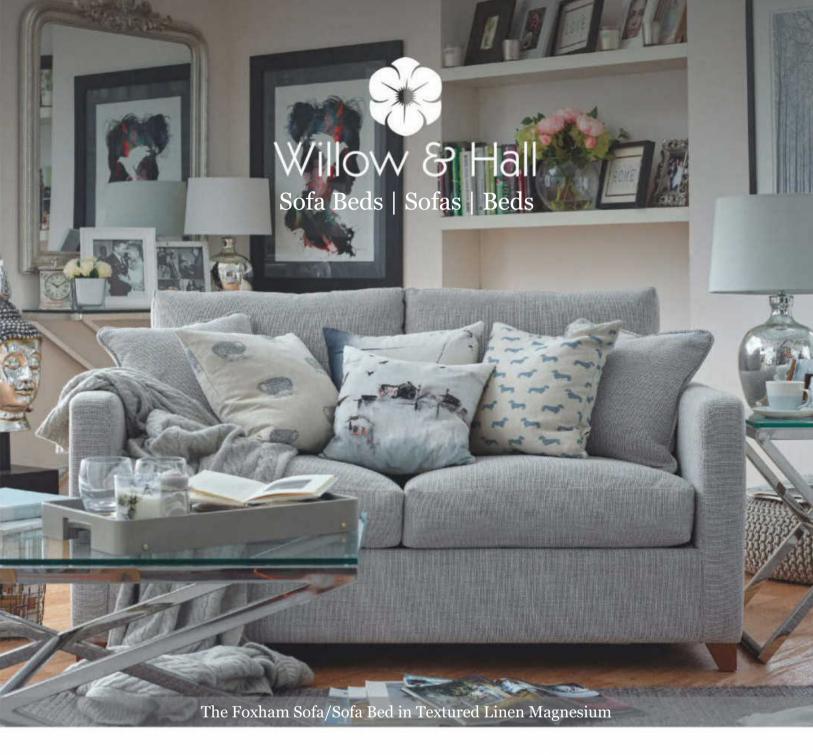


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range, Aria

L205cm), Made.com

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■ LOOK FOR A GUARANTEE

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■ ESTABLISH FINANCIAL
CLARITY Before the build starts,
ensure you have have every
financial eventuality confirmed
in writing, from quotes and down
payments to credit facilities and
cancellation policies.

■ USE A CERTIFIED COMPANY

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'It feels much bigger than it really is'

Located on a narrow plot in East Molesey, Surrey, Lynn McClelland and Geert Goeteyn's house felt cramped at times. What they wanted was an open-plan layout that would give them more space, light and a connection with the garden. They hired architect Nicolas Tye (nicolastyearchitects.com), who widened the L-shaped footprint to the rear and side. Opening up the ground floor and adding roof lights and bifold doors has created a better layout, with the dining area at the

front of the house, a centrally located kitchen and a living area to the rear.

The roof was altered to give a higher ceiling in the main bedroom at the back, and the third bedroom has become a snug/cinema room. 'The house used to be a series of small, dark rooms with areas we didn't use,' says Lynn. 'Now it's full of light and we use every inch of the space. We love the fact that it's easier to entertain a lot more

people, too.'

FIND OUT MORE...

■ Two roof lights in the flat roof of the living-room extension brighten the space. ■ You can choose fixed or opening roof lights - Lynn and Geert went for fixed,

as their bifold doors to the garden provide ventilation. ■ Flat fixed roof lights are available from Glazing Vision and cost £500-£700 each.





SOURCEBOOK Boilers

Don't know where to start? Try our top five places...

BAXI 0344 871 1545; baxi. co.uk It sells good mid-range combi boilers, as well as the Baxi Megaflo System boiler, which is suitable in homes with a high demand for hot water. The best-selling Baxi EcoBlue Advance Heat is light and compact, priced from £1,073. IDEAL 01482 498660;

idealboilers.com Providing combi, system and heat-only boilers, its flagship range of compact high-efficiency boilers is the Logic+ combi. The 35kw version costs £870.

VAILLANT 0845 602 2922;

vaillant.co.uk This leading premium brand supplies A-rated ecoTEC gas boilers, including the Plus 838 and Pro 28, awarded a Which? Best Buy 2015. It also offers renewable solutions, such as solar-thermal and ground-pump technologies, and intelligent controls. Contact your local installer for a quote.

VIESSMANN 01952 675000; viessmann.co.uk Using the latest technology, this company provides gas, combi and oil-fired boilers, as well as specialising in renewable systems. Prices start from £717 for the small Vitodens 050-W combi boiler. **WORCESTER BOSCH**

0330 123 9339; worcesterbosch.co.uk Sells Greenstar gas boilers, rated a Best Buy in a Which? 2015 survey, as well as energy-efficient combi, conventional gas and oil and propane boilers. Its Greenstar CDi Compact combi boilers are priced from £1,000.





Ceiling showers

Want a really slick-looking shower? Then check out a ceiling tile fixed head. These large square, rectangular or circular flat-heads are fitted flush to the ceiling, producing a direct downward flow. Currently trending, they're ideally suited to the clean lines of a walk-through, doorless shower.

Hudson Reed's square ceiling tile fixed head comes in three sizes, priced from £153 for 270mm x 270mm for the head only. To complete the stylish look, team it with Hudson Reed's concealed valves. Alternatively, try Grohe's Rainshower F-series. The large ceiling-mounted heads can be customised with multiple sprays to suit your specific requirements. Prices start from £424.

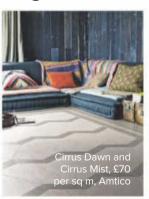
Good as new

Restore wooden worksurfaces to their original glory and protect them from daily wear with a deep-penetrating coat of Sadolin worktop oil, which also helps to enhance the timber's natural grain.



GO YOUR OWN WAY Custom-design floors

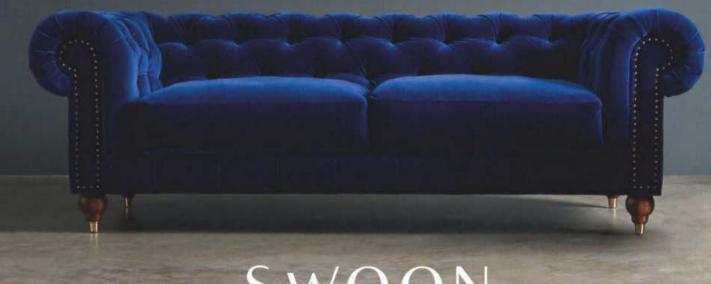
Design your own bespoke flooring with Amtico's Signature collection. Go to amtico.com and click onto the Room Visualiser, then simply choose two complementary styles, add borders, a motif or a central focal point, and see what it will look like.



Before you start a building project, make sure you know the latest regulations. The Local Authority Building Control website (labc.co.uk) has a Knowledge Hub section and a helpful list of frequently asked questions for homeowners

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From derelict and unloved

Kim and Chris Marshall have turned an abandoned farmhouse and its ramshackle outbuildings into a coherent, contemporary idyll

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A detached, four-bedroom, 18th-century farmhouse and barn in Dartmoor, Devon, converted into one house. with a three-bedroom annexe in the former milking parlour.

WHO LIVES HERE

Kim and Chris Marshall live here, with their children Dora, 16, and Rufus, 15. Kim is a solicitor and Chris works as an accountant.

WHAT THEY DID

The Marshalls renovated the farmhouse and barn, then linked the two with a glazed extension. They also created a self-contained annexe.

WHAT IT COST

The couple paid £950,000 for the farm in 2011 and spent around £750,000 on the property, which is now worth more than £2.5 million.



FIRST FLOOR ▶ On this level, there are five bedrooms. The two in the farmhouse have en suites, then there are two in the barn with a bathroom,

and one in the annexe

Off the main hall, there's a kitchen with living area, while a second hall leads

■ GROUND FLOOR

to a dining room and living room. Another hall leads to a bathroom, a pantry, utility room and plant room. The annexe has a kitchen/living area, two bedrooms and a bathroom







to stunning family home

hen Kim and Chris Marshall first saw West Yard Farm, set in 58 acres of pasture and woodland in Dartmoor, they had very different reactions. 'After house-hunting for three years I immediately fell in love with the location, but Kim couldn't stop crying,' says Chris. 'It's an incredible place - bordered on two sides by the National Park and extremely private - but Kim hated the idea and needed to be persuaded.'

Chris found the property online and was convinced that the farm could provide a long-term home. Kim, however, was far more practical about the reality of buying such a run-down property, which included an 18th-century granite farmhouse and a collection of tumbledown barns and farm buildings. **DRAWING UP IDEAS** Unoccupied for years, the house had been unsympathetically renovated in the Forties and Seventies, with

most of its original features stripped out, but once Kim was on board, the couple were determined to not only renovate the house, but to convert the outbuildings, too.

'We engaged an architect who had fantastic ideas, but the cost would have exceeded our budget by more than four times, and made us start to doubt whether the project was even feasible,' says Kim. 'We then found local architects Van Ellen + Sheryn (vanellensheryn. com), who came up with a whole new design, placing the kitchen at the heart of the house.'

Connecting the house and an adjacent barn with a glazed box would provide a new kitchen and living area with fantastic views. The barn would be converted to create two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a pantry, utility room, bathroom and plant room downstairs.

To one side of the house, a detached milking parlour has also been extended and converted into a self-contained three-bedroom annexe with a dramatic green oak and glass structure, ->



We love... ... how our architect blended traditional and modern ideas and materials so effortlessly'



'We found local architects who came up with a new design, placing the kitchen at the heart of the house'

forming a glazed gable end, and the roof has been clad with patinated zinc.

It was tricky to get planning permission for the barn, as it was thought bats were living there and bat shelters are legally protected. But in the end the plans were approved, and the architects suggested builder Goulden and Sons (goulden andsons.co.uk) for the project. Work began in February 2012 and finished in the summer of 2013. 'We came in 17% under budget, thanks to our builders' diligence,' says Chris.

The farmhouse was stripped back to bare stone walls and required rewiring and replumbing. A new timber-and-steel roof was built, and the windows were replaced. The steel-framed glass-box extension, which has become the hub of the house, now has sliding glass walls with a fantastic view. In the milking parlour, double-glazed units were inserted into the green oak frame.

ECOFRIENDLY BUILD As well as blending traditional and contemporary design, the property is also very environmentally sound. A ground-source heat pump in the plant room provides underfloor heating, supplemented by four wood burners. Solar panels produce electricity and hot water, there are LED lights and low-energy appliances throughout, and the water on the farm comes from a natural spring. 'It's great that the house is so self-sufficient – our fuel bills are considerably reduced,' says Chris.

When it came to decorating, Kim was keen to make use of natural materials throughout her

new home but wasn't sure where to start, so she signed up for an interior-design course. 'We had used up most of our budget on the renovation and I didn't want to make expensive mistakes,' she explains. 'Putting together a colour palette I could use throughout saved me such a lot of time, and I enjoyed choosing and adding a focus colour in each room.'

The couple are delighted with the way their home looks. 'The mixture of new and old is so appealing,' says Chris. 'Now we have more than enough space and such beautiful views, too.'







RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

- Many alterations can be made under Permitted Development, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.
- Keep your neighbours informed at all stages, and you might need to obtain party wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.
- For extensions and major remodelling, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture. com) holds a directory of approved architects.
- Get at least three quotes for all major purchases, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.
- It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfrc.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.
- Remember to factor delays into the schedule and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.



Renovate stone walls, like the Marshalls did

The original stone walls of the farmhouse and outbuildings were repointed using traditional lime mortar. Inside, the walls were left unsealed for a natural finish.

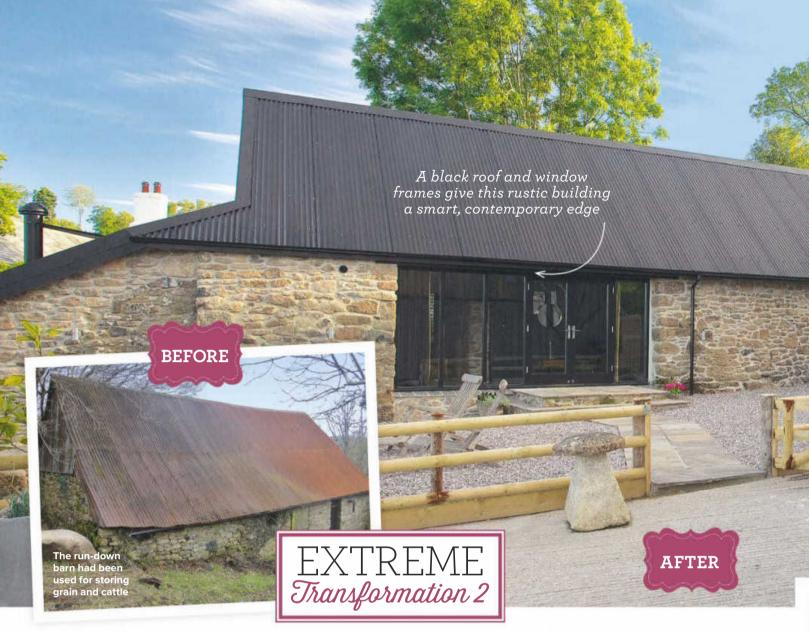
- If you have a property with stone walls, you'll need to take extra care to ensure they're safe and weather-tight. You can find a surveyor to assess them for you at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (ricsfirms.com).
 Damp penetration can prove to be
- Damp penetration can prove to be a problem with stone walls, and repair and repointing with suitable materials is vital. Because they need to breathe

and let absorbed water evaporate, stone walls should not be patched up with sand and cement, which will prevent this happening.

■ Building new homes using stone is becoming increasingly popular at the moment and, although natural stone is an expensive material to buy and lay, the cost will usually be reflected in the value of the finished house. Cast or reconstituted stone offers a cost-effective alternative, but it can lack the authentic appeal and subtle variation of the real thing.







'We turned a ramshackle cattle shed into a stylish space'

Hard graft and an eye for detail helped Siobhan and Mat Hayles convert a run-down barn into a stunning and relaxing holiday let

reams of living in Dartmoor with their sons, Connor, seven, and Fizzy, five, led Siobhan and Mat Havles to take on a historic farm that needed a lot of work. Living in London, they'd come to Dartmoor camping and loved it, so in 2011 they took the plunge and bought the farm, complete with a derelict barn and a resident peacock that they named Peeky. 'Even though the buildings were crumbling ruins, we completely fell in love with them,' says Siobhan.

Once used for livestock, the single-storey barn had a rusty, leaky corrugated-iron roof,

and a stream ran behind it, so everything was mouldy and wet inside. The building was partly buried in the slope of the hillside, too, but Siobhan and Mat still had high hopes for it and planned to turn it into a holiday let. 'We wanted to combine the feel of a traditional Dartmoor farm building with the luxury of a designer hotel suite,' explains Mat.

Although the farm isn't listed, it's within Dartmoor National Park, so there were lots of planning constraints, including the materials that could be used in restoring it. Siobhan and Mat chose local architectural practice

Restored stonework, a new corrugated roof and a wide stretch of bifold doors have given the barn a completely new lease of life

A seating area, with a stunning view through the bifold doors, is the perfect spot for relaxing at any time of day







Woodford Architecture + Interiors (01364 654888; woodfordarchitecture.com) to draw up a conversion that would retain the exterior, including the corrugated metal roof. UP FOR A CHALLENGE The building work began in November 2014 and took seven months. 'We employed a local builder, who

was amazing, and Mat helped with the labour,' explains Siobhan. 'They stripped out the barn, and the granite walls were rebuilt with stone from the farm. We tanked the back of the building and put in new land drains, too.'

Internally, the stone walls were repointed with traditional lime mortar, durable limestone flooring was laid over underfloor heating and hand-made timber windows and glazed doors were installed. The building now contains a bedroom with a roll-top bath, a shower room, a kitchen-diner, a snug and a seating area. The cart door has been replaced by a 4m stretch of glass doors. Finally, Siobhan chose colours inspired by Peeky the peacock's tail to decorate and furnish the barn.

Having cost £200,000 to convert, the barn can't be sold separately, but the couple do rent it out via uniquehomestays.com. 'It was hard work,' says Siobhan. 'But it's been worth it.'

Trials & triumphs...

Fizzy and

■ What was the high point?

'Seeing everything come together, especially when the glass doors went in.'

Any low points?

'When we moved in, we all got ill from drinking the water - it came from the moor and needed to be treated.'

■ What was the project saviour?

'Peeky the peacock inspired our use of colour and texture.'







he original kitchen in Alice and Will Parker's East Sussex home was dark and cold, with a galley layout. It led to a side return with a high garden wall that blocked light and created a dull view from the kitchen sink,' says Alice. 'Space was tight, too; we could just squeeze in a dining table, but it partially blocked the patio doors, limiting the light and access to the garden.'

The couple decided to add an extension at the back of the house to create a large family kitchen. Alice drew inspiration from magazines, blogs, restaurant décor and shop fittings before honing her ideas so they would work together. Building work started nine months after the family moved in. 'We were without a kitchen for

months and the house got incredibly dusty, but it was good to be here to make decisions and answer questions from the builders to keep the project moving,' says Alice.

Some decisions, like the flooring, were simple. 'I've always loved reclaimed parquet because it looks like it's got a story to tell new wood just doesn't have the same look,' says Alice. 'It also works for the floor to be light in here, as the units are dark.'

Sourcing the units wasn't so easy. 'I must have had 45 samples of doors, but none of them were right,' says Alice. 'Luckily, I found Ditchling Kitchens, which was able to make exactly what I'd pictured. The new kitchen has transformed the way we live. It works so well that we hardly use the rest of the house.'

▲ Hidden storage One side of the island

is used as a breakfast bar. The units beneath provide plenty of storage and hide the dishwasher Hand made Shaker style units, from £450 for a W600mm base unit, Ditchling Kitchens; painted in Railings Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr. Farrow & Ball





$\blacktriangle A$ cosy corner Putting a sofa here blocked out too much light, so Alice chose two chairs instead and added sheepskins for warmth Rattan cone chairs, £200 each, Cox & Cox. Sheepskins, £55 each; coffee table, £110;

Practical beauty

Speaking to experts at a stone yard helped Alice decide on quartzite for the worktop, which is less likely to show stains than marble Quartzite worktop in Superwhite, £435 per sq m, Gerald Culliford. Ionian deck mounted taps in pewter, £463, Perrin & Rowe



How we did it

66 The kitchen was part of a big renovation project spanning 10 months. We replaced the main bathroom, and replastered and redecorated the whole house at the same time. The building work involved fitting steel beams and extending across the back of the house, adding bifold doors and knocking through to provide access to the living room. I managed the different tradesmen and did some of the decorating myself. All of the building work cost around £50,000 and we paid £2,000 for the kitchen to be fitted.







fter 25 years with the same kitchen, Kate and Paul Simpson knew a change was long overdue. 'It was looking very tired,' says Kate. 'We'd knocked the dining room and kitchen together 20 years ago, so it was open plan, but we'd painted it blue, which felt dark.'

With their two boys no longer living at home full time, Kate and Paul decided on a redesign that better reflected how they now live. 'There was a peninsular sticking out that obscured the best asset in the room - the glorious window and view - that had to change,' says Kate. 'Plus we wanted to lighten everything up.'

The Simpsons chose high-gloss, off-white units. 'We thought white would be too clinical and wouldn't suit the rest of the house,' says Kate. The room has lovely original alcoves, which the couple wanted to show off, so they opted for built-in shelves in one and a freestanding unit in the other. 'We had to have a galley design, as it's a long, thin room, but we started the units further back to let the view take centre stage,' says Kate. 'Now it's the ideal spot to sit and look out to the garden.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW

Kate and Paul created their new kitchen

THE PROPERTY

A four-storey, three-bedroom Regency town house in north London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Kate and Paul Simpson live here.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple redesigned the kitchen, replacing the old L-shaped run of units with a galley layout,

allowing them to create a dining area in front of the picture window.

THE LOOK

Contemporary, with stainless-steel worktops and retro furniture.

LESSONS LEARNED

66 Mixing textures, like matt splashbacks and touches of metal and wood, really adds interest to a room."



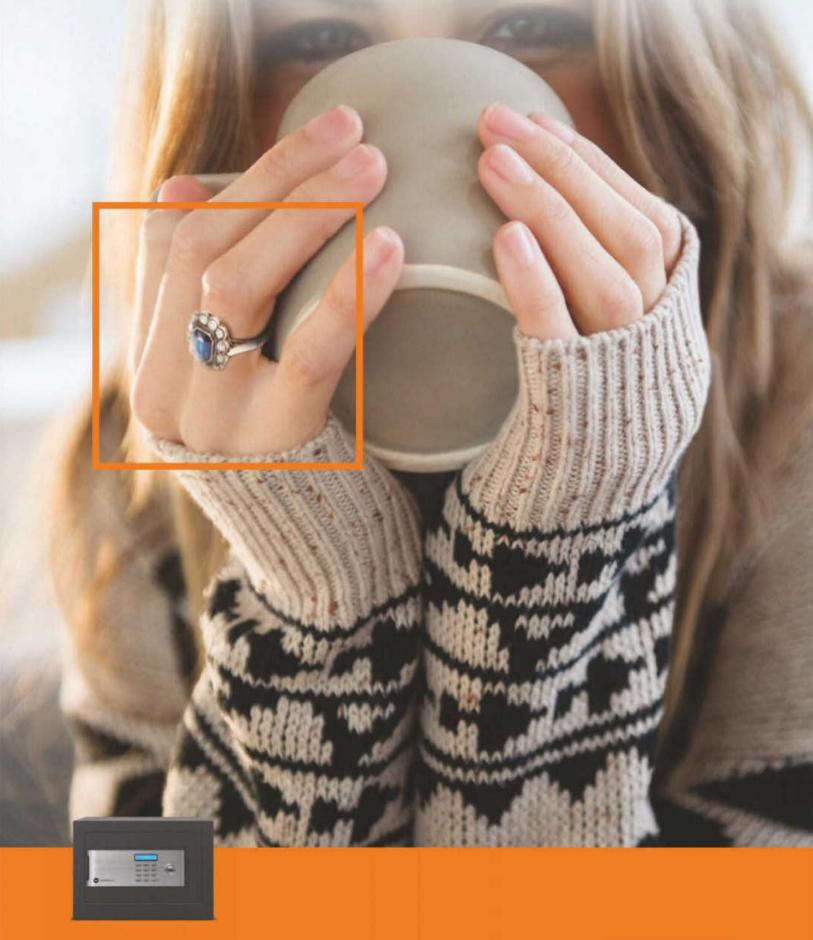
THE LAYOUT The base units are fitted along both walls, with a dining area in front of the window at the far end. The sink is opposite the hob





How we did it **66** We took time to do our research. A local kitchen company

had been recommended to us and its designer really impressed us with her ideas. She was endlessly patient with us as we changed our minds and was very tolerant of our attention to detail. We splashed out on stainless-steel moulded worktops, which were specially made for us. The hob and sink had to be built in, so the measurements were key. We paid one price for the entire job, so we didn't have to manage various tradesmen. The build took around three months, but we had to wait a further three months for the bespoke elements.



Treasured jewellery, passports, important documents... those things you love and value are worth keeping safe, right? Let the experts help you make the right choice.







Take the 60-SECOND

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached house in Sandbach, Cheshire, built in 1995.

WHO LIVES HERE

Hilary and Philip Beattie live here, with sons, Ben, 22, and Harry, 18.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room, and extended across the rear to create a large family-friendly room.

THE LOOK

Smart, modern and streamlined, with a cool white backdrop, lifted by warm oak accents, dark polished-quartz worktops and splashes of bold colour.

LESSONS LEARNED

Mana big room, layout can be tricky. The kitchen company helped us to get the proportions right and keep the working area compact.



THE LAYOUT The base units are in an L-shape, with tall units recessed into one wall, concealing a structural component of the extension. A wooden breakfast bar bridges onto the island



aving lived in their Cheshire home for nearly 20 years, Hilary and Philip Beattie were itching to give their kitchen an overhaul. 'It was tired and we felt it was high time for a new design,' explains Hilary.

Not only did the couple replace the dated kitchen furniture, but they also decided to knock down an internal wall between the existing kitchen and dining room, and add an extension across the rear of the house, complete with bifold doors to the garden.

The couple chose smart linear cabinetry in warm dark oak and cool matt white from local firm Trukitchen. 'We were looking for something clean, modern and simple, and

we felt that this combination had just the right amount of interest and contrast without appearing fussy,' explains Hilary.

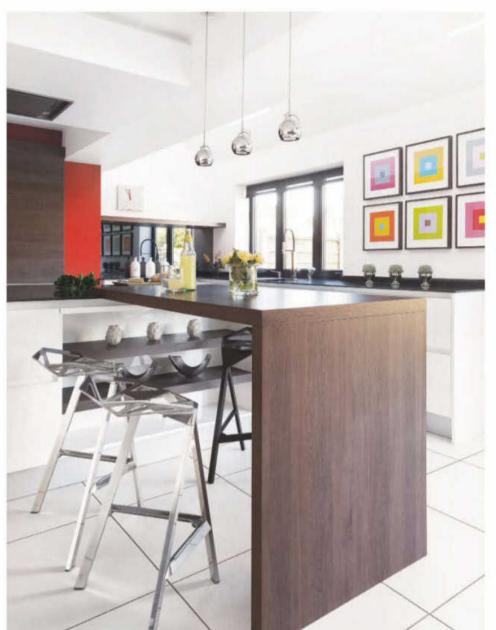
A large island is the main cooking area, complete with hob, with an easy turn to reach the ovens. 'I enjoy being able to face out into the room when I'm cooking, so I can be part of what's going on,' says Hilary. The breakfast bar bridged off the island is a family favourite. 'The bar seats the four of us comfortably for meals, and it's more sociable than sitting in a row at the island,' she says.

'The finishing touch for the kitchen was a roll of ridiculously expensive wallpaper,' says Hilary. 'I wanted to go bold, and I fell in love with a bright orange design. It adds zing and finishes off the room perfectly.'

▲ White out

Large-format floor tiles tie in with the style of the white slab units Unique Blanc Natural porcelain tiles, £57 per sq m, Contract Tile Consultants. For a similar

mixer tap, try the Olympus with pull out nozzle, £315, Franke





▲ Slim slider

A drawer within a drawer makes great use of space. The hard-wearing engineered quartz worktop is ideal for busy family use Silestone Dinux quartz worktops, £3,500, Trukitchen

On show

Shelves under the breakfast bar provide a display area One Stools bar stools, from £273 each, Magis range, Nest. Beluga pendant lights, £149 each, Fabbian range, Made in Design



How we did it

66 We took our architect's plans to several showrooms. Things have moved on since we last bought a kitchen more than 20 years ago, so we were impressed when we were shown digital designs for the layout. It really helped us to visualise our new room. We chose Trukitchen because the team was so professional. Every detail was carefully completed and they worked closely with our builder to create the ceiling feature to hide the extractor ducting. The project took 12 weeks - we paid £65,000 for the building work, plus £1,500 for the installation of the kitchen.





Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

THE PROPERTY

A six-bedroom, detached Twenties house in Esher, Surrey.

WHO LIVES HERE

Claire and Paul Redwood live here with their three daughters, Grace, nine, Holly, seven, and Charlotte, two.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple turned a spare room next to the main bedroom into a dressing room and knocked through to the main bathroom to use it as an en suite. A doorway to the landing was added to the old en suite, so it could be used as the main bathroom.

THE LOOK

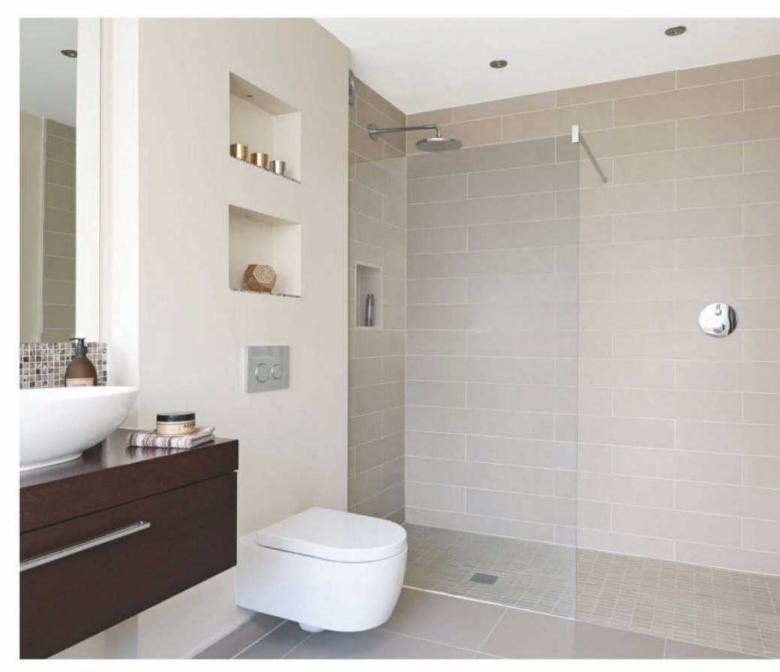
Boutique-hotel style, with a walk-in shower, a statement bath and a tranquil, taupe colour palette.

LESSONS LEARNED

44 I thought the room would be too cramped with a second basin, but now I see I could have shifted the loo along to fit another one in.



THE LAYOUT The door opens into the middle of the room, with the bath to the left and the walk-in shower to the right. The vanity unit is next to the loo



laire and Paul Redwood wanted to update the main bathroom in their home in Esher, Surrey, when they moved in seven years ago, but they held off, as they couldn't justify the expense. 'We knew we would replace it eventually,' says Claire.

As it happened, being patient worked out for the best, because the couple's plans changed. They decided to turn a spare bedroom next to the bathroom into a dressing room. 'I wanted to have an en suite that linked with the dressing room, so it made sense to swap our old en suite with the main bathroom,' says Claire.

When it came to decorating the new en suite, Claire longed for a calm, tranquil haven that emulated the look and feel of a boutique-hotel bathroom. A designer bath was top of her wish list, so she was delighted to find a discounted

limestone tub online. 'I found a local showroom that had the same bath on display, so I was able to see it, touch it and lie in it to work out if it was what I really wanted,' she says.

Claire has added interest to the room with a mix of tiles, all in complementary neutrals. She chose a running-bond tile pattern for the walls in the walk-in shower, mosaics for the shower floor and large-format floor tiles for the rest of the room. 'I spent ages looking for a range of tiles that comes in different sizes and compatible colours, so I knew the tiles would work together,' she says.

Brown mosaics used as a splashback behind the vanity unit and in the storage recesses beside the bath add a stylish finishing touch. 'The en suite is tucked away, so I go up there after a busy day to unwind,' says Claire. 'It's a peaceful space and a real treat to have.'

▲ Tone up Different-sized tiles in a similar shade have been used in the shower area to create subtle interest For a similar tile design in different formats and sizes, try the Base in Sabbia 60cm sq floor tiles, from £54.91 per

sq m, Reed Harris





A floorstanding mixer tap complements the oval bath. 'I chose one with a shower attachment,' says Claire For a similar mixer tap, try the Design floorstanding bath/shower mixer, £765, Crosswater

**Forward planning 'I opted for a stud wall with recessed shelves built in instead of a wall unit, which might have crowded the room,' says Claire Côté Bastide toiletries, from £28 each, Attic. Stardust stripe bath towel in neutral, £18, John Lewis



How we did it We decided to use a building

firm, Eclipse Property Solutions, that was recommended by my sister. When the builders found that the bath was too heavy and slippery to lift up the stairs, they hired a crane and brought it in through the window. The floor needed reinforcing, so they set the bath on a plinth with LEDs along the bottom. The delivery of our tiles was delayed because of snow, and then we discovered the order was wrong and we were short. I had some family coming to stay at Christmas, but the fitters came back at the weekend to finish it off, just in time. The building work cost around £5,000.







FEATURE AND STYLING RENÉE GREEN PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES PLAN PERSONA·ID

he original en-suite bathroom in Caryn Coyle's northwest London home was a badly planned space that required a drastic rethink. 'It was a huge room, but the tiny bath looked silly, as did the pedestal basin, and the shower stuck out right by the doorway,' she says.

While researching online, Caryn discovered architectural practice McLaren Excell, which she took on to plan the project. She was keen for the en suite to complement the pared-back décor in the main bedroom and key to this was

the choice of storage. 'I wanted a Scandinavian look for the units,' she says. 'We had them custom-made using moisture-resistant MDF.'

Caryn then chose the twin basin to top the units and bought a large walk-in shower. Sourcing the floor tiles, however, wasn't as straightforward a job. 'It took lots of trips to local tile shops before I found one to produce the herringbone pattern on the floor.'

Despite her love of colour, Caryn is glad she went for the neutral scheme. 'Having no colour accents can really work well in a bathroom, as it allows every detail to stand out,' she says. ->

▲ Bespoke design

Caryn came up with the concept for the twin-basin vanity unit and had it made to measure. Its wall-hung design shows off the striking herringbone tiling on the floor Bespoke cabinetry, £780, Octa Construction. S21 white matt tiles, £70.55 per sq m, Bibliotheque





Discreet fittings A handleless glass door leads to a large walk-in shower tucked away in the corner of the room Bespoke shower door, from £890, The Shower Lab range, EC1 Bathrooms

▲ Perfect niche Recessed shelving above the loo creates a smart display area for bowls, vases and decorative bottles Primo Dolce 50 loo, £267. EC1 Bathrooms



How we did it

66 We moved the hot-water tank, which gave us more layout

options. Building work included ripping out the old suite, plastering, new electrics, tiling and installing new fittings. The builders also set back the main bank of cupboards, which originally lined up with the shower. I cut costs by project managing. The whole thing took five weeks and we stayed with friends for a few days when, despite the builders' best efforts, our bedroom was just too dusty. The building work cost £6,480.

'It's small but so perfectly formed'

You can steal space from unlikely places to make a bathroom bigger, as the O'Briens discovered

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

élène and Gary O'Brien's original bathroom suite was dated, with tired blue and white floor tiles and fixtures that were 15 years old. 'Water had flooded through to our dining room ceiling three times, so it was definitely ready for a refit,' says Hélène. The style of the new room was inspired by the couple's recently renovated Shakerstyle kitchen. 'I wanted a similar look for the bathroom,' explains Hélène. 'I opted for freestanding units to create a relaxed feel, and having a roll-top bath has always been a dream of mine, so that was a must-have, too.'

Tall trees outside make the bathroom rather dark, so the O'Briens went for a light scheme. 'I contrasted the pale walls with a darker bath to get a more contemporary look,' says Hélène.

When it came to deciding on the layout, the couple went all-out to maximise space. They swapped the location of the loo and basin to get rid of some space-hogging pipework, then moved a radiator and knocked through into the airing cupboard to create space for a shower. They even gained enough room for a cupboard.

Hélène is so pleased with the finished look. 'We really relax in here,' she says. 'You can't beat a soak in a beautiful room after a stressful day.'





BEFORE

Take the 60-SECOND

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, detached, Nineties house in Horsham, Sussex.

WHO LIVES HERE

Hélène and Gary O'Brien live here with their daughter, Eva, five.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked through into an airing cupboard to create space for a shower enclosure. New floor

tiles were fitted, the pipework was updated and the suite was replaced.

THE LOOK

A mix of contemporary and vintage elements in calming tones.

LESSONS LEARNED

I printed out detailed information about all the products we had chosen - it made it easier to answer the builder's questions.



THE LAYOUT The loo is to the left of the door, next to the basin which sits under the window. Opposite is a shower enclosure, and a bath sits at the far end



How we did it Our plumber suggested knocking through to steal some of knocking throughthe the airing cupboard in the hall, which made space for a shower. I drew a plan and cut out the elements to scale to help me visualise the layout. The floorboards were removed to investigate leaks, pipework was replaced and the room was replastered. The work took 10 days and the labour cost £2,500.



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Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor, Ideal Home

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REATE THE PERFECT BED

Sleep is as essential for good health as exercise, so it's important to make your bed the best that it can be. Here's what you need to know to ensure restful nights

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



When was the last time you replaced your bed? Research by the Sleep Council shows that after 10 years, your bed and mattress may have deteriorated by as much as 70% due to wear and tear and the accumulation of sweat, skin cells and dust mites. It's difficult to get deep, restful sleep on an uncomfortable bed. As Jessica Alexander from The Sleep Council says: 'Just one bad night's sleep affects our mood, concentration and alertness.' So, invest in better sleep and you invest in your health and quality of life. If anyone's got the formula for a comfy bed right, it's hotels - it is their job to sell a great night's sleep, after all. Premier Inn. Marriott and Hilton take such pride in the quality and comfort of their beds, that their quests can buy the whole kit and caboodle - mattress, linen and all – online, after their stav. Here's what the experts say about the basic building blocks of a comfortable bed, and how to get them right...

BUY THE BEST BEDSTEAD

The Sleep Council has this advice: * Don't just consider how a bed looks, but check whether it gives the right amount of support (especially if you or your partner suffer from back pain), and that it's easy to get in and out of. * Go for as large a bed as you can afford and have space for. Ergonomic studies have shown that couples sleep better in a wider-than-standard double bed as they can turn without disturbing their partner - so it's worth going for a king or super-king size. * Always try before you buy and test a bed for comfort together if it's for two. Simply try each one on your

short list in your favourite sleeping position for 10 minutes to appreciate the differences between them and feel which one suits you best. > Don't buy a bed and mattress separately - they have to work together. Sizes are not standard and even if they have the same description (such as 'king size') they may not have the same measurements - especially if they are not from the same manufacturer.

KNOW YOUR MATTRESSES Try

the Sleep Council's MOT (Mattress Obsolescence Test) at sleepcouncil. org.uk - if you answer 'yes' to three or more of the questions, you're not getting the best night's sleep; if you answer 'yes' to five or more, it's time for a new mattress. If you need to replace yours, here are some need-to-knows before you shop: * Sprung mattresses are made from wire coils; pocket sprung means the individual springs are encased in fabric. Non-sprung mattresses include foam, gel or wadding-filled designs. Innovations in the sprung mattress market include The Smith, a collaboration between furniture retailer Swoon Editions, and boutiquehotel booking service Mr & Mrs Smith. The Smith mattress combines layers of Hampshire wool, cotton, silk and cashmere for comfort and breathability, as well as a double layer of pocket springs for support, all encased in fine Egyptian cotton. It's priced from £499 at Swoon Editions. * New advances in the non-sprung market include the Arbor (from £1,275) at Heal's, which has a core of soft fibres, padding and Talahay latex, made from sap harvested from sustainable rubber forests. This material is hypoallergenic, antibacterial and anti-dust, plus it's breathable and contours to your body to provide ergonomic spine support. * Also new to the market are three mattresses that arrive packed in a box. The One, £349, from Made.com; Eve, also from £349, evemattress.co.uk and Leesa, from £390, leesa.co.uk. All promise long trial periods of 100 nights, or 101 in the case of The One, with a money-back guarantee if you're not satisfied. All three have a threelayer construction: The One is made up of a Cool Blue memory foam top, a

breathable Laygel latex middle and a high-density Reflex foam base for 'cloud-like' comfort; the Leesa has a cooling top laver, a memory foam middle layer and a supportive base layer; the Eve has a memory foam top, a high-resilience comfort layer and a high-density base layer. Don't be seduced into buying an unnecessary mattress topper - they are great for boosting the comfort and support of an old mattress, but shouldn't be necessary if you've just bought the right mattress.

TEST THE MATTRESS PROPERLY

The only way to find the right type of mattress for you is to try them out.

* Faye Janes, assistant bed buyer for John Lewis explains: 'When you're testing a memory-foam mattress, you should lie on it for as long as possible so it has time to adjust to your body temperature. It's important to lie in the position you naturally sleep in. If you share a bed, your partner should always be with you when trying a new mattress to make sure it offers the right support for you both. Some mattresses offer split tensions, with one side firmer than the other - a great option if there's a big difference in weight, or you and your partner have different preferences over firmness.' * Look for the National Bed Federation's 'NBF Approved' large tick logo, which means that the product you're buying meets flammability regulations and is clean and hygienic.

UNDERSTAND DUVETS' TOG RATINGS

Sally Hotchin, bedding specialist at Snuggledown, explains:

* 'The tog rating is the duvet's own scale of warmth, measured by the



filling's ability to trap air and provide thermal insulation. The lower the tog, the cooler you will feel under the duvet, so for summer opt for a lower tog (between 3-4.5), in autumn a medium one (7.5-10) and choose a higher one for winter (12-13.5). The most popular rating is 10.5 as it can be used for all seasons, but make sure you choose a good-quality duvet to ensure it's breathable and that you won't overheat in the warmer months.'

BE FILLING-SAVVY Thicker doesn't necessarily mean warmer.

*'Down - the fluffy feathers birds use to incubate their eggs - is the finest natural insulator around, as it provides warmth without weight, and retains heat very well,' says Sally. 'Synthetic fillings are good alternatives to down or feathers for allergy sufferers, and there are plenty of high-quality options, such as hollowfibre and microfibre, which can offer a luxurious experience.' ->





CHOOSE A PILLOW THAT MATCHES HOW YOU SLEEP

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to pillows, explains Sally:

*The right pillow will help keep your spine aligned and relieve aches and pains. If you sleep on your front, opt for a soft pillow to prevent a backwards stretch in your neck. If you sleep on your side, you'll need a firm pillow, with lots of filling to support your head and reduce pressure on your shoulders. Back sleepers are better off with a medium pillow to support the head and create a gentle curve in the neck.'

TAKE NOTE OF THREAD COUNT

Molly Freshwater, co-founder of Secret Linen Store, shares her expertise on sheets and bed linen:

* Thread count is the number of threads per square inch of fabric. The higher the count, the denser and more durable the fabric. However, you can't judge quality by thread count alone, as some manufacturers cheat by twisting together thinner, lower quality yarns to bump up the thread

count. In reality, a 600 thread count is about the highest you can go.' Molly recommends buying sheets with a thread count of 200-600. 'Anything below 200 will feel thin and won't last,' she says. 'Your sheets have to take more wear and tear than your duvet cover, so they're worth spending more on.'

INVEST IN EGYPTIAN COTTON FOR DURABILITY

Molly explains why Egyptian cotton is superior to standard cotton:

*Egyptian cotton has established a reputation for being the best for use in bedding because it's a good-quality yarn with long fibres, which make it hard-wearing, yet soft to the touch.' *Certified Egyptian cotton is grown in Egypt, so it comes with a higher price tag, thanks to expensive growing, harvesting and shipping costs, but if you want luxury and durability, it's worth paying for. Be sure the label says 100% or pure Egyptian cotton, otherwise it may contain only a small percentage of the good stuff.'

THE PERFECT BED SOURCEBOOK

Try these suppliers of top-of-the-range products

REDS

AND SO TO BED Originally specialising in antique beds, it now designs its own luxury hand-made bedsteads to suit modern homes.

0808 141 4343; and so to bed. co. uk

LOAF Loaf's beautifully cosy beds can be customised with high-quality fabrics – it'll send you free swatches and you can try before you buy.

0845 468 0697; loaf.com

MATTRESSES

BUTTON & SPRUNG Designed its own mattress – the IQ spring – to provide exactly the right amount of support you need. 0333 320 1801; buttonandsprung.com

SOAK&SLEEP Stocks luxury pocket-sprung mattresses by Hypnos and offers its own specialist orthopaedic range.

01483 437762; soakandsleep.com

DUVETS AND PILLOWS

GINGERLILY Find mulberry-silk-filled duvets in three different weights, as well as 100% and 50% silk-filled pillows, for a luxurious night's sleep. 0343 216 9902; gingerlily.co.uk

SNUGGLEDOWN This company's Norwegian heritage taught it how to combat the cold - now its range of natural and synthetic duvets and pillows are manufactured in Britain.

01942 721771; snuggledown.co.uk

BED LINEN

LINEN WORKS Its timeless collection of luxury linens is made from 100% natural flax for breathability and that 'lived-in' look.

020 3744 1020: thelinenworks.co.uk

SECRET LINEN STORE Sisters

Molly and Harriet source the finest quality yarns for this online store's linens. Their attention to detail, such as using high-quality 100% cotton on both sides of the brand's duvet covers, ensures comfort.

01243 606245: secretlinenstore.com

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Try something new...

GROW POTATOES

You don't need much space, skill, time or money to grow delicious spuds, so give it a go this spring

I CAN BUY POTATOES - WHY SHOULD I GROW THEM?

Once you've discovered the intense flavour of home-grown spuds and experienced the deep satisfaction of digging up your own crop, you'll never look back. Unlike some other vegetables, potatoes are very low maintenance once vou've planted them. You don't need acres of space, either - if you don't have a garden, you can grow them in a compact gro-sack (H45cm x diameter 30cm), £7.95 for three, Marshalls, on a patio or balcony. In fact, a pile of tyres, a large bucket or an old plastic compost sack (with drainage holes) will do the job adequately - you simply need a sturdy container that's at least 30cm in diameter and 30cm deep.

WHAT TYPE OF POTATOES SHOULD I GROW?

You can't plant supermarket potatoes - you need to buy special seed potatoes from a garden centre or an online supplier. Each seed potato tuber you plant will send out lots of side shoots, which all swell and become individual potatoes. Ideally, plant at least three different types of seed potato: first early crop, second early crop and main crop, so you have potatoes throughout the whole

summer season. Try 'Winston' (a first early), which works well boiled or steamed. 'Charlotte' (a second early) is a flavour-packed, pale-yellow variety that's ideal steamed and used in salads, while 'Desiree' (a main crop) is a versatile potato with red skin and delicious waxy yellow flesh.

WHEN SHOULD I PLANT MY POTATOES?

Work back from when you want to harvest them. First earlies can be planted from late February to late May and crop in about 10 weeks; plant second earlies from March to late May - they will crop after around 13 weeks; main crop potatoes can be planted from March to mid May, and will crop about 20 weeks later.

HOW DO I PLANT THEM?

About four to six weeks before planting, you should place your seed potato tubers on travs (cardboard egg boxes are ideal) and leave them to 'chit', or grow little side shoots, indoors somewhere light and cool but free of frost. If you're going to grow your potatoes in a vegetable patch, they'll need a sunny spot. Start by digging a 10cm-deep trench, then plant your seed potatoes with the shoots pointing upwards, about 30cm apart, in rows



that are around 60cm apart. When the shoots reach 20cm, mound up the soil around them, leaving just a few centimetres showing. Repeat this three weeks later. If you're growing in potato bags or containers, fill to just below the top with good-quality compost and place a single chitted potato tuber in the compost, shoots pointing upwards, at a depth of 12cm. Keep your plants well watered.

HOW DO I HARVEST THEM? When the leaves of your plants begin to turn yellow and die back, your potatoes are ready to harvest. Use a garden fork to lift the earth beneath the plant gently, then sieve the soil with your hands or a potato scoop to gather the potatoes, taking care not to damage them. Brush off any loose soil and, for main crop potatoes, leave them to dry in the sun for a few hours before storing them in a dark paper or hessian sack somewhere cool and dry, until you need them. New potatoes (first and second earlies) can be rinsed clean and taken straight from plot to pot for cooking.

ANY TIPS FOR COOKING? New potatoes are delicious steamed with a few sprigs of fresh mint. Remove the mint before serving and stir through a knob of butter and a handful of chopped chives or parsley. For perfect mashed potatoes, mash with salted butter, milk and freshly ground black pepper, then stir through 1tsp wholegrain mustard and a handful of grated Cheddar.



£4.15, Lakeland





A safe harvest quaranteed

Potato harvesting scoop, £14.95, Burgon & Ball

SCRUBBING BRUSH Get rid of all that mud Freshly Scrubbed vegetable brush, £2.50, Garden Trading

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Try a new taste... **MATCHA**

A Japanese green-tea powder, matcha has a slightly sweet, spinach-like flavour. Prized for its cancer-fighting antioxidants and energising properties, its distinctive colour makes it ideal for desserts, like these enticing macaroons.

HOW TO MAKE Preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/Gas 3, then line two baking trays with baking paper. In a food processor, blend 100g ground almonds, 125g icing sugar and 1tsp matcha powder, then sift into a bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk 2 large egg whites until stiff enough to form soft peaks. Gradually whisk in 50g caster sugar, 1tbsp at a time, until the whites are stiff and glossy. Fold in the almond mix. Pipe into 28 small rounds. Tap the trays on the worktop to remove air bubbles, then leave for 1hr to form a skin. Bake for 12min or until firm. Cool, then sandwich with buttercream or chocolate ganache or spread.



3 of the best PANCAKE TOPPINGS Naturallv sweet Made from 100% fruit apples, grapes and carob – it's delicious with a handful of blueberries Fruit syrup (350g), Sweet Freedom range, Sainsbury's £2.99 Caramel heaven Sea salt, English butter and organic cream combine in this award-winning spread £6.90 Hand made sea salted caramel (314ml), Cutter & Squidge Rich & indulgent A dark-chocolate sauce that's perfect warmed and served drizzled over ice cream on top of a pancake Belgian chocolate sauce £1.90 (250g), Finest range, Tesco

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Hand-held spiraliser, Oxo range, John Lewis



IDEAL W GREAT DEAL

Warm copper tones make these cafetières stand out



FEATURE NICHOLA PALMER **PHOTOGRAPHS** STOCKFOOD/CHRIS ALACK STOCKFOOD/RUA CASTILHO





Pepperoni ciabatta

MAKES 8 TAKES 40MIN

■ 2 ciabatta loaves ■ 4tsp harissa paste ■ 4tsp tomato ketchup or purée ■ 4-6 spring onions, chopped ■ 170g artichoke hearts in oil, drained (reserving the oil) and roughly chopped ■ 110g pepperoni or salami slices ■ 2tsp fennel seeds ■ Rocket leaves, to serve

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F/Gas 6. Cut the ciabatta loaves in half, then split lengthways. Mix together the harissa and ketchup or purée in a bowl, and spread evenly on the ciabatta pieces right up to the edges.

2 Place the ciabatta on two baking sheets and top the ciabatta with the chopped spring onion, artichoke pieces and pepperoni or salami. Sprinkle on the fennel seeds and season well with salt and pepper. Drizzle on a little of the oil from the artichokes.

3 Bake for 15-20min until the bread turns golden, and serve with rocket.

PAIR IT WITH Evolver IPA, £2.50 for 330ml, The Wild **Beer Company**





Pissaladière

SERVES 4 **TAKES** 45MIN PLUS DOUGH-MAKING TIME

■ 50g butter ■ 4 onions, thinly sliced ■ 1 quantity of the basic pizza dough (see left, up to step 3) ■ Plain flour, for dusting ■ 3tbsp olive oil ■ 100g tinned anchovies, halved lengthways ■ 32 pitted black olives ■ 2 thyme sprigs, leaves removed and stalks discarded

1 Heat the butter in a pan and gently fry the sliced onions for 20min. Set aside to cool. 2 Preheat the oven to 230°C/ 450°F/Gas 8. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. On a floured surface, roll out each piece into an oblong shape,

measuring about 28cm by 15cm. Place them on two baking trays and brush with the olive oil. **3** Top the dough bases with the cooked onion slices, then arrange the anchovy slices on top of the onion in a crisscross pattern. Add the pitted black olives and sprinkle on the thyme leaves, then season with plenty of black pepper. Bake the pissaladières for 20min until they are golden and crisp.

PAIR IT WITH Wainwright ale, £1.79 for 500ml, Thwaites range, Tesco



Gennaro has long stirred a mixture of butter and olive oil into his pasta. It's a little Italian trick passed down through generations to add flavour and a silky smooth taste. Bertolli with Butter is the perfect blend with butter and olive oil. Try stirring some into your freshly cooked pasta today.



A blend with butter (22%), olive oil (21%) and other vegetable oils.



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■ 1tbsp almond or sunflower oil ■ 15g chia seeds ■ 100g ground almonds ■ 150g ricotta cheese, drained ■ 125g mozzarella, torn into pieces ■ 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely sliced ■ 4 spring onions, trimmed and sliced ■ Handful of rocket leaves ■ 20g Parmesan, shaved, to serve ■ Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/ 350°F/Gas 4. Line a baking sheet with baking parchment and brush with the oil. Put the chia seeds into a bowl with 4tbsp water. Leave for a few minutes until the mixture turns gloopy. 2 Stir in the ground almonds, plus a generous pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper. Mix with your hands until a dough forms. 3 Put the dough in the centre of the baking sheet and press out with your hands to make an A4-sized base. Bake in the oven for 20min. 4 Dot the pizza base with the ricotta

and pieces of mozzarella, sprinkle on the chilli and spring onion, and season with salt and pepper. Bake for a further 10min. Top the cooked pizza with the rocket leaves, Parmesan shavings and a drizzle of olive oil.

PAIR IT WITH St Peter's organic ale, £24 for 12 x 500ml bottles, St Peter's Brewery

Spicy Lebanese lamb calzone

SERVES 4 TAKES 45MIN PLUS DOUGH-MAKING TIME

■ 6tbsp pine nuts ■ 1tbsp olive oil ■ 2 onions, finely chopped ■ 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped ■ 400g lamb mince ■ 2tsp ground cumin ■ 2tsp ground cinnamon ■ 1tsp ground paprika ■ 175g spinach leaves ■ 300g cooked potatoes, diced ■ Plain flour, for dusting \blacksquare 1 quantity of the basic pizza dough (see page 144)

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/ Gas 6. Dry fry the nuts until golden - be careful, they can brown quickly. Remove from the pan and set aside. 2 Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the onion and garlic for 5min. Add the mince, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Stir in the spices and fry for 10min. 3 Add the spinach and cook until just wilted. Stir in the pine nuts and cooked potato. Season well. 4 Turn the oven up to 230°C/ 450°F/Gas 8. Divide the dough into four pieces. On a floured surface, roll out each piece to a 25cmdiameter circle and put a quarter of the filling to one side of each one. Fold the dough over the filling and crimp the edges well, like a Cornish pasty. **5** Place on a lined baking sheet. Bake for 15-20min in the bottom half of the oven,

PAIR IT WITH Chiron pale ale, £2.79 for 500ml, Thornbridge range, Beer Hawk

until puffed up and golden.



3 OF THE BEST PIZZA-NIGHT CHEATS



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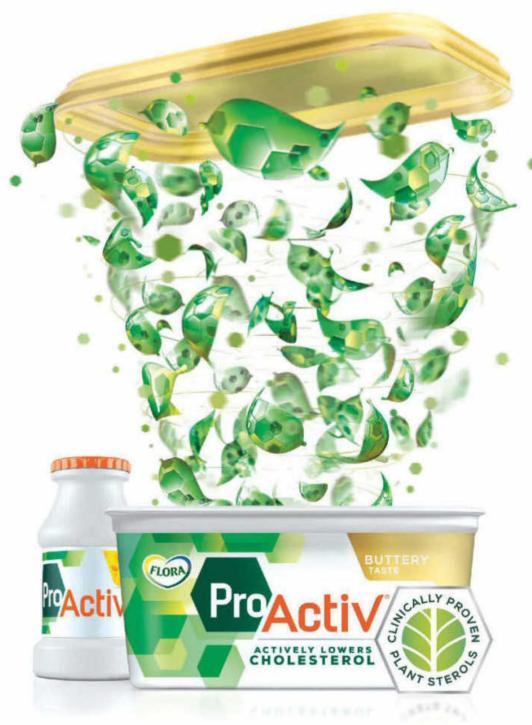
Look's tip

When making calzone, be sure not to overfill them. to prevent them from leaking - and crimp the edges carefully for a good seal





High cholesterol is a risk factor of Coronary Heart Disease

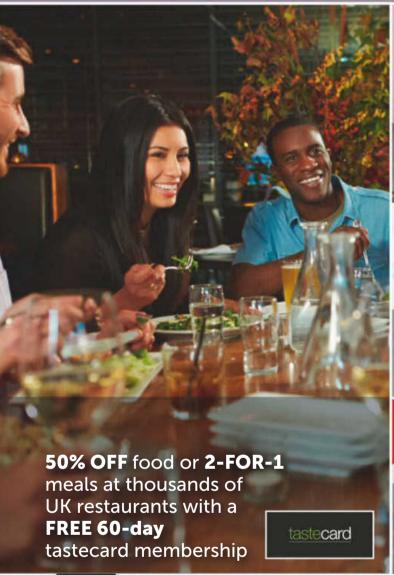


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Grow something beautiful...

CAMELLIAS

Admired for their glossy evergreen leaves and beautiful white, pink and red blooms, camellias provide stunning colour during the darkest winter days through to early spring. Native to the woodlands and mountains of East and South Asia, these are tough beauties that are happy in cooler climes.

HOW TO GROW Best planted in spring or autumn, camellias do best in moist, well-drained, acidic soil with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. The plant will tell you if the soil is too alkaline, as the leaves will turn yellow. Help counteract this with a thick mulch of composted pine bark. Plant in a sheltered position out of the wind and in partial shade, especially if it's a pale-flowering variety. Add plenty of grit to the planting hole to improve drainage and water well.



VARIETIES TO TRY

BEST FOR

Camellia x williamsii 'EG Waterhouse'



A hardy variety that is pretty wind resistant. It sheds its pale pink double flowers as soon as they start to fade. Creating a flowering hedge, as it grows a bit faster than other varieties, reaching up to 3m tall.

Camellia 'Black I ace'



With luxuriant foliage and masses of long lasting flowers, this one has an RHS Award of Garden Merit. Containers on a patio, balcony or in a courtyard. It needs very little attention, and will grow up to 1.8m.

Camellia japonica 'Brushfield's Yellow'



Shelter these showy anemone form flowers from cold, dry winds and position out of the morning sun. Beds and borders, small cottage-style gardens and courtyards. Grows to H4m with a spread of 2.5m.

Weekend project with jonathan wild



There's nothing nicer than a wild-flower meadow buzzing with beautiful bees and butterflies. The good news is that it's simple to create a wild-flower meadow that you can enjoy every day in your own garden.



- First, choose an annual seed mix try 'Candy' from Pictorial Meadows for a palette of pastels, or 'Contrasting' for a mix of blues, golds and reds.
- Mark out your area and weed thoroughly, removing grass and other culprits. Rake the soil level and simply spread a specialist meadow seed mix over the surface. Firm in using the head of the rake or your feet and wait for the rain.
- After you've been delighted with the annuals, 'graduate' to a stunning perennial meadow seed mix.

Jonathan Wild is commercial director at pictorialmeadows.co.uk

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHS LEIGH CLAPP "YOUR CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS IS WITH THOMPONE OR MORGAN, A COMPANY WHOLLY, INDEPENDENT OF TIME INC. (UK) ITD. FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT THOMPSON-MORGAN.COM



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IDEAL HOME COMPETITION IDEAL HOME COMPETITION



Create a fresh, contemporary feel with the new Loft collection from Marks & Spencer

esigned for modern living, the new Loft collection from Marks & Spencer offers plenty of inspiration for updating your home this spring. Whatever your interiors style, choose the look you love from the collection's compact, clean-lined furniture and modern accessories. You can mix and match contemporary pieces with cool pops of colour, clean-cut, Scandi-inspired designs and lively graphic prints, with everything available at a great price.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Marks & Spencer to give seven lucky winners £1,000 each to spend in store at Marks & Spencer Home, or online at marksandspencer.com. Enter the competition now for your chance to win this fantastic prize.

4 EASY WAYS

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ONLINE Enter online

at housetohome.co.uk/competitions.

SP: Spoke Ltd (0333 202 3390)

WIN £1,000 TO SPEND AT MARKS & SPENCER

SEND TO Marks & Spencer/Ideal Home March 2016 competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB, to arrive no later than 13 March 2016.

QUESTION: What is the name of the Marks & Spencer's range for modern living? **A)** Attic **B)** Loft **C)** Cellar

A) Attic B) Loft C) Cellar	
Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Title	First name
Surname	Address (BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE)
	Postcode
Daytime phone number	Home phone number
Email address	Year of birth
FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, TURN TO TH	E STOCKISTS DIRECTORY Seven winners will each receive a £1,000 Marks & Spencer

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smartphones loaded with map apps, but they're a good way to go if mobile reception isn't quaranteed or you want to avoid data charges. 'You'll also get a dedicated screen and a better speaker dash cams give tips on how to improve your driving, while Nextbase cameras come with a free subscription to Police Witness, which forwards footage of bad driving to the authorities.





Dash Cam 35, Garmin This records HD video of your journey and warns if you're driving too close to the car in front, or if there's a red light or

speed camera ahead

■Eves on the road



I believe that tech should...

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that passengers can get online,

and doubles as

this smart aluminium adapter, which protects from surges in voltage



▲ Map it out

GO 5in sat nav, TomTom

Get free 'lifetime' worldwide map updates with this device, which pinpoints traffic jams to within 10m and offers alternative routes in seconds

FACT! 52% of Brits post to social media to make friends and family members jealous

AEG's gentle washer-dryer

Combo machines often get a bad press, but this one is brilliant

FEATURES WE LOVE

You can wash and dry more at once \perp Traditionally, if you wanted to dry a reasonable-sized wash, you'd have to take out some of the load first so it would have space to tumble. But this machine lets you wash and dry 6kg at a time - that's around 30 T-shirts. It also has a 9kg wash capacity.

Clothes won't shrink. A common fear \triangle of using a washer-dryer is that it will shrivel up your woollens, but there's no need to fret over cashmere cardis placed in this machine. It's one of the first models to be awarded Woolmark's Blue label, signifying that it can clean and dry handwash-only woollens safely. Other fabrics are protected, too, as the machine automatically adjusts spin speed and temperature according to fabric type.

Owasher-dryers is their tendency to break down, but this one has reduced vibration and a brushless motor, so is less likely to develop a fault. And it's quieter, too.

An outfit can be ready in an hour The nonstop 'dry-to-dry' programme will wash, then dry up to 6kg of laundry in 60 minutes. If all the outfit needs is a quick refresh, there's an even speedier steam programme, which will remove odours and wrinkles in 15 minutes.



L87695NWD washer-dryer, £799 AFG



Sound the alert

Sammy is a cute motion-sensor alarm – attach it to anything and, when it moves, Sammy will bleep and send a notification to your smartphone. So you could attach it to the fridge or biscuit jar to deter the kids from taking too many snacks, or to a bag, so you'll know if someone tries to make off with it when you're in a busy restaurant. Sammy is the first of many devices in the BleepBleeps range, which also includes the amusingly named David Camera webcam and soon-to-be-launched Lily Loco – a pendant your kids can wear or carry that tracks them and shows their location on a map.



The hi-tech

FACT! 28% of buyers would spend an average of £3,310 more on a home if it had the latest tech



FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE FACT SOURCES BARCLAYS MORTGAGES DIGITAL HOMES REPORT, HTC



GET 20% OFF home & garden buys

Refresh your scheme for spring with storage solutions, tools and more from Garden Trading

eady your garden for the coming season with the beautiful new home and outdoor ranges from Garden Trading. Whether you want to tidy up your potting shed, grow your own herbs or overhaul an entire space, discover clever storage solutions, must-have tools and stylish accessories to reinvent any landscape this spring.

Maximise your garden's potential with handy space-saving buys, including storage boxes, hose-pipe hangers and shed organisers in contemporary designs. Whether

you live in a city or a village, you can re-create a country cottage look with Garden Trading's range of trailing plants – simply team with plant supports to bring height and interest to your garden. Complete the look with outdoor dining essentials from the new picnic range, perfect for easy alfresco dining as the days get warmer.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Garden Trading to offer readers 20% off full-priced home and garden buys, excluding outdoor furniture. Shop at gardentrading.co.uk, or call 0845 608 4448 to redeem your discount.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To redeem your 20% discount online, visit gardentrading.co.uk and enter the promotional code IDEAL20 when you reach the checkout. Alternatively, if you wish to place your order over the phone, call 0845 608 4448 and quote the promotional code IDEAL20 to claim your discount.

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Garden Trading

Girl About Tech explains... Induction hobs

You might have heard of induction, but what do you know about it? These are the pros and cons...

WHAT IS IT? You're probably familiar with standard ceramic hobs. which have heating elements underneath the glass surface that warm up and transfer heat to the zones above. Well, induction hobs might look the same but they work very differently - instead of an element, they have a circular coil under each zone that generates a magnetic field. Only when you place a ferrous-metal pan onto the surface and effectively 'complete the circuit' will heat induce through the coil and into the pan itself.

WHY DO I NEED IT? Like the

Kardashians, induction hobs have been around for ages but a lot of people still don't understand their appeal. So what justifies forking out possibly hundreds of pounds more for one - a hob, that is, not a Kim or a Khloe - if you're happy with your gas burners or ceramic zones? Well, in a word - lots. I've listed five good reasons (see right) why you should consider switching to induction but for me, personally, it's all about control and precision (see point 1).

If you're still in doubt, you only have to look at the list of top chefs who have ripped out the gas burners in their pro kitchens and replaced them with induction hobs - it includes Michel Roux Jnr (at Le Gavroche), Nick Nairn (at his Aberdeen cookery school) and Dan Doherty (at Duck & Waffle). Dan finds working with induction makes for a much cooler, more comfortable kitchen, so much so that he even admitted to me that he's thinking about getting his chefs thicker uniforms!

'It's difficult to burn food (or yourself) with an induction hob,' says Dan. 'And if you're low on space, you can use the cooktop for prep.' The man has clearly seen my kitchen mid-dinner party!



YOU'RE IN CONTROI.

induction is even more so. It reacts instantly when you change the heat level and you can go down to very low settings that gas hobs often can't hit. This makes it easier to, say, keep water in a bain-marie or hot milk at a simmer. Likewise, you can also hit high temperatures for exact amounts of time. which makes searing meat a doddle.



There are no pan supports or burners to negotiate, just a flat surface to wipe with a damp cloth. And spills are less likely to get burnt on, as the hob doesn't get hot. Now and then you could clean it with soapy water (avoid harsh chemicals) and buff it up with a paper towel.

EATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATIONS MONIKA ROE



YOU MIGHT NEED TO BUY NEW PANS

Not all cookware works with an induction hob. Your pans need to have a ferrous-metal base, such as 18/0 stainless-steel or cast-iron, which makes a circuit with the magnetic coil in the element, otherwise the pan won't heat up. To test pans, hold a magnet to their bottoms. If it sticks, vou're in business. The base should also be 'perfectly flat, and not dimpled, domed or ridged,' says Jennifer Spragg, senior brand manager at Whirlpool. 'This guarantees even heat distribution and the best performance.' If your pans are pure copper or aluminium, you'll need new ones. Some manufacturers throw in a free set

of compatible pans if you buy one of their hobs; others offer 'adaptor' discs that sit under your pans, like Whirlpool's Wpro Induction Hob Adapter Plate, from £35.

/ IT'S REALLY, \pm REALLY FAST

Boiling two pints of water takes around 11 minutes on a standard ceramic hob and nine minutes on gas, whereas an induction hob with a decent boost function can do the job in little over a minute. Think of the time you'll save when making rice or pasta, and the reduction in your energy bills!



IT'S SAFE

While no appliance is childproof and I'd never recommend you leave little ones near a hob unattended, induction cooktops are safer than most. Because only the pan gets hot, not the hob, it is harder to burn yourself albeit there's a small amount of heat when the pan is removed (a residualheat indicator light warns you of this).

Most induction hobs have child locks, so kids and pets can't turn the heat on, up or off accidentally. And look out for pan detection sensors that distinguish between a pot and other metal items, so the hob won't heat up a teaspoon left on it. One final feature is a pause button. If you have to deal with

a ringing phone or crying child, press it and any active zones will come down to the lowest heat level, so they won't boil over. Press it again and the zones go back to their previous settings.

Try these...

INDUCTION HOBS



See the heat

NZ63J9770EK Virtual Flame induction hob, Samsung

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Love

the visual heat of gas? This hob mimics it with lights that glow stronger as you up the power'



Flexible surface ACM928BA induction

hob, Whirlpool

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Connect two zones to create a larger area that can be set at one temperature for bigger pans'



Best of both

C895iBK induction and wok-burner hob, Caple

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Breakups are never easy, so if you can't be parted from gas, try this dual-fuel cooktop'



Try it out

Everyday portable induction hob, Tefal

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'A low-cost way to give induction a go, this plug-in hob has handy preset buttons like "boil water"



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CLASSICAL SPAIN: SEVILLE, CORDOBA & GRANADA

Andalusia is a beautiful corner of Europe it is the Spain of Carmen, Figaro and flamenco.

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Stay in glorious Sorrento and visit the Amalfi coast and the ruins of Pompeii.

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- Escorted by a tour manager

TO REQUEST A BROCHURE, please call 01283 744319



You'll love this...
Speedy dishwasher

In a hurry? This pot washer can clean a half load in 18 minutes and it's much more glam than a pair of rubber gloves!

How often do you pop things in the dishwasher, only to have to wait ages until it's full? Meanwhile, the contents develop a nasty smell and a worrying green tinge. Happily, you'll have no such issues with this Sharp model - it can wash up to four place settings in just 18 minutes, which



is also handy, say, when you need the kids' lunchboxes cleaned quickly for tomorrow's sandwiches. There's a function that pops the door open at the end of the cycle, so that items dry quicker, and a setting that cleans glassware and hardier crockery together without compromising the wash results of either.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



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FIVE-STAR EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISES

There are lots of ships travelling along Europe's famous rivers but few of them can match the sheer luxury of our selection of five star vessels stylish and spacious, these 'floating hotels' cruise the Rhine, Danube, Moselle, Main, Rhône and Seine.

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- Extensive and fully inclusive touring programmes



BRUGES BY EUROSTAR

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FRESH AND FRAGRANT TREE LILIES



These incredible Oriental lilies can grow as tall as 2.5m (8ft) in two years. One bulb can produce up to 30 20cm blooms and take on a shrub like appearance. Height: 2.5m (8ft). Spread: 60cm (24in). Supplied as bulbs, size: 18/20. The collection comprises of:

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- Tree Lily 'Starburst'
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Buy 3 of any variety for £7.99 Buy 9 (3 of each) for £14.99 Saving £8.98 Buy 18 (6 of each) for £24.99 – Saving £22.95 ORDER FORM Cut out and post in an envelope addressed to Ideal Home 'Tree Lily Collection' Offer, Dept XIH737, PO Box 162, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BX

CODE	PRODUCT	PRICE QTY	TOTAL
TCK10688	Tree Lily 'Yellow Rocket' x 3	£7.99	£
TCK12257	Tree Lily 'Starburst' x 3	£7.99	£
TCK12556	Tree Lily 'Pink Explosion' x 3	£7.99	£
TCK12251P	Tree Lily Collection x 9 (3 of each)	£14.99	£
TCK12244P	Tree Lily Collection x 18 (6 of each)	£24.99	£
TCB13087	Bulb Fertiliser 1 x 80g Pack	£7.99	£
P&P	FREE	TOTAL	£

I enclose a cheque made payable to IDEAL HOME OFFERS (no cash, please) for the sum of $\mathfrak L$

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You'll love these...

Wireless headphones



We've all suffered from 'cable fail' - when your headphones fly out as you're jogging or you get caught in a wire web. Until recently, however, I hadn't been tempted by wireless 'phones, but then Bluetooth got good and these beauties came onto the scene. They sound great, the over-ear cushions do a fine job of blocking out Boy About Tech's snoring and the auto switch off and 20-hour battery life will get you through a few box sets quite happily. Wireless headphones, your time is now!

GIRL ABOUT TECH,

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



Bluetooth headphones, £329, Bang & Olufsen

OR TRY ONE OF THESE... Wireless

headsets
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN.

TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY



Super sound

Y50BT wireless headphones, AKG

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'The design is certainly "Marmite", but this value-for-money set delivers brilliant audio and an impressive 20-hour battery life'



Running mates

Trainer by Gibson wireless headphones, John Lewis

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'With a second band to secure them to your head, these sweatresistant cans are fab for joggers'



Musical genius

P5 wireless headphones, Bowers & Wilkins

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'These headphones were designed and tuned by the engineers from Abbey Road Studios, so the sound is sublime'



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VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

Discover Vietnam, as well as the beautiful city of Phnom Penh and the ancient ruins at Angkor.

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INDIA

Visit some of the most incredible palaces in India, as well as the fascinating city of Shimla, on a journey to this magical country.

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- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager
- *Take an **extended tour** to visit Shimla, once the summer capital of the British Raj and 'queen of the Hill Stations' in the foothills of the Himalayas, and stay in the luxurious Oberoi Cecil Hotel.



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National Park, Thingvallavatn Lake, the lava plateau at Threngsli pass, the immense Myrdalsjokull glacier and breathtaking Gullfoss Waterfall

- Whale and dolphin watching cruise, and see puffins on Reynisfjara's volcanic sand beach
- See the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, relax in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa and encounter geysir water eruptions
- Escorted by a tour manager



DUBROVNIK, THE DALMATIAN COAST & MONTENEGRO

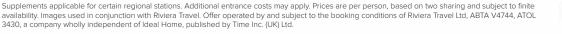
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- Tours of Dubrovnik with its medieval and baroque centre almost untouched by the 21st century and Montenegro.
- Visits to Krka National Park, Mostar (setting of the famous bridge), Split (with a tour of Emperor Diocletian's palace), and the medieval port of Trogir
- Escorted by a tour manager

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Feel calmer, more relaxed and well rested with the help of these life-enhancing apps for mind, body and soul





RELAXINESS -**RAIN SOUNDS**

Windows Phone, free Finding a bit of peace during

a hectic day can be tricky, but not so with this mind-clearing app. Similar to the sounds of white noise, it uses a range of HD stereo themes, from soothing rain in the park to drops on the roof, to help reduce stress, improve concentration and recharge your batteries. Great as a yoga soundtrack or sleep aid alike.

ALSO TRY Rain, Rain Sleep Sounds, free for iOS and Android



LUMOSITY

iOS and Android, free Forget the gym, it's time to work up a mental sweat

with this app's 'fit test', followed by a personalised programme of engaging games to hone your agility. As they're addictively good fun, it's easy to make the games feel like part of your daily routine rather than a chore. Track your progress and you'll also see your memory and attention span improve.

ALSO TRY Elevate - Brain Training, free for iOS and Android



HEADSPACE

iOS and Android, free

The hustle and bustle of daily life means it can be

hard to switch off without pondering this week's shopping list or what to have for dinner. Containing 10 bite-sized sessions, Headspace will teach you the basics of quided meditation, as well as send alerts to keep you on track. There's also a 'buddy system', so you can help friends stay motivated, plus stats to show you how often and how long you meditate for.

ALSO TRY Calm, free for iOS and Android



SLEEP TIME

iOS and Android, free Waking from a deep sleep can leave you a bit groggy,

so swap your ordinary alarm for this clever app. Pop your phone under your pillow and Sleep Time will analyse movement during the night, waking you up in a light sleep phase so you're ready to take on the world. Charts of your sleeping pattern also mean you can work out how long you can stay up past bedtime with minimal disruption.

ALSO TRY Smart Alarm Clock, £1.49 for iOS, free for Android



P7.17.7. iOS and Android, free

Promising to

create a 'new you' in just 10 minutes. Pzizz is an insomnia-busting, powernap wonder, using calm music and sounds to lull you to the land of nod. It'll generate a new soundtrack each time you use it, with optional voiceover suggestions to guide you to sleep. Whether you use the default settings

own. it's so easy to use, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.



ALSO TRY

Relax Melodies, free for iOS, **Android** and Windows Phone





POSTUREZONE

iOS, free

Straighten up your slouchy habits with this nifty app. Ask

a pal to take a photo of you, then adjust the markers to indicate where each part of your body is and it'll show how aligned or slumped you are, saving each picture so you can track your progress. There's the option to share your perfect posture online and there are exercises for improving your alignment, too.

ALSO TRY PostureScreen, £12.70 for Android, £22.99 for iOS



WATERLOGGED

iOS, free

Energy-boosting, infectionfighting and a weight-loss

aid to boot, water can transform how you feel if you drink enough. This app is an easy way to stay hydrated - just a few clicks helps you track exactly what you drink each day. It'll save your most-used bottle or glass sizes so you can log them quickly, with reminders and charts to help you hit your goals.

ALSO TRY Carbodroid, free for Android



TWILIGHT

Android, free

New research suggests that the bright white and blue

light from your phone can suppress the sleep hormone melatonin, but evening Facebook-checkers rejoice – this app adapts your screen to the time of day, softening the blue light with a red filter. Great for bedtime bookworms, there's also a handy preview mode for different settings, so you can configure it to suit.

ALSO TRY Bluelight Filter for Eye Care, free for Android

PLAN YOUR VISIT

to this year's Ideal Home Show

Discover inspiration, products and expert advice under one roof inside the UK's biggest homes and interiors show



hether you're tackling a total renovation or just want to add finishing touches to your home, you'll find inspiration at the Ideal Home Show, which is sponsored by Zoopla. Held from 18 March to 3 April 2016 at London's Olympia, the UK's biggest homes event will be packed with ideas, advice and products.

With seven dedicated show areas catering to every need and taste, this is the only place to visit when updating your home. Featuring Interiors, Home Improvements, Food & Housewares, Fashion & Beauty, Technology, Gardens and Shopping,

the different sections give you more choice and bigger brands than ever, all in one place. Plus, discover exclusive show offers, new product launches and items you won't find on the high street.

In addition, there will be impressive show homes and gardens, inspirational room sets, a relaxing restaurant and Champagne bar, and interactive theatres. There'll be a host of celebrity ambassadors, top chefs and respected experts hosting inspiring workshops to share their knowledge and skills. So, if you've been before or have never experienced the show, make sure you don't miss the home event of the year.

ENJOY YOUR FREE SHOW TICKET!

Your free ticket to the Ideal Home Show 2016 is attached to this page. It is valid for entry to the show on the opening weekend (Friday 18, Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 March 2016). To buy more tickets for these dates for just £9.50 each (usual on-the-door price is up to £20), please call 0844 858 6763 or visit idealhomeshow.co.uk and quote the code IHOMEC before 18 March 2016. Children aged 15 and under can attend for free when accompanied by a paying adult (up to a maximum of two children per adult). Calls cost 7p per IB MARCH - 3 APRI minute plus the phone company's Zoopla access charge.

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Get the kitchen you've always longed for with this fabulous prize from Wren Kitchens

Tired of your existing kitchen and think it needs a bit of an update? Wren Kitchens is offering Ideal Home readers the chance to win £7,000 to spend on a dream kitchen from its extensive collection.

With three ranges, eight door styles and more than 40 colours to choose from, Wren Kitchens' designs are functional and beautiful, drawing inspiration from contemporary trends. The company also has a free specialist home-measure service, as well as free 3D planning and expert advice in store.

Answer the question (right) for your chance to win £7,000 towards a new kitchen. To view the entire Wren Kitchens range, find your nearest showroom or book a free design appointment, visit wrenkitchens.com.

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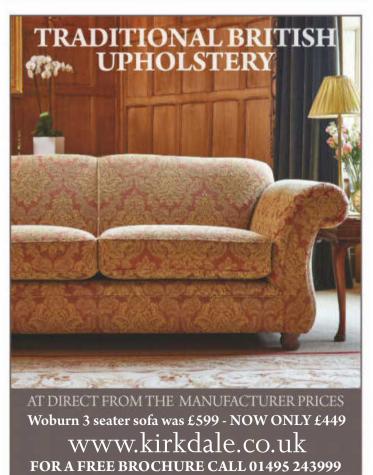




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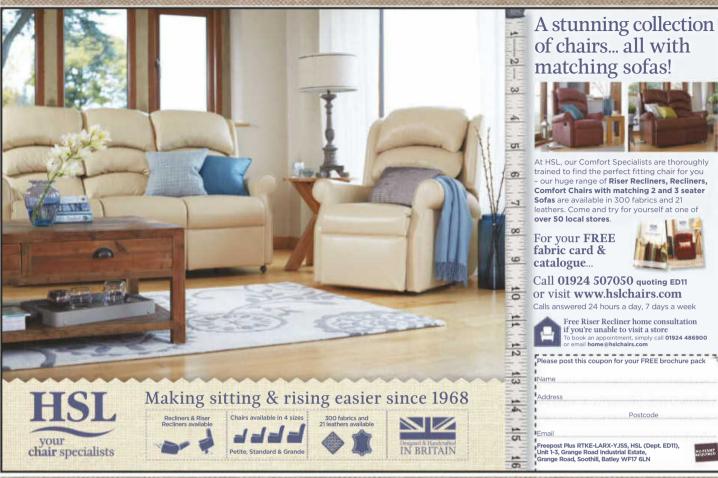


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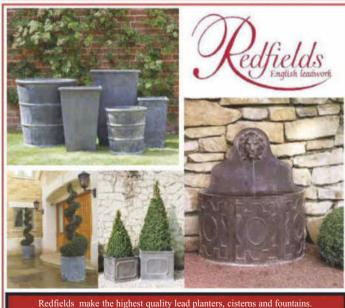


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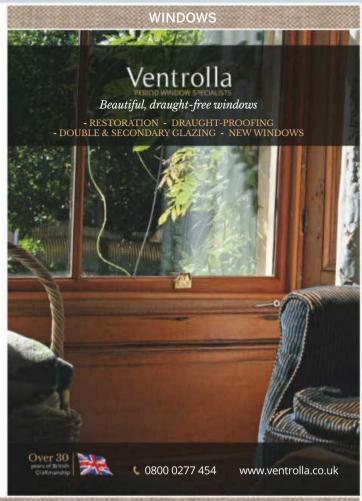


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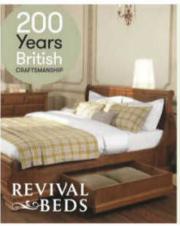
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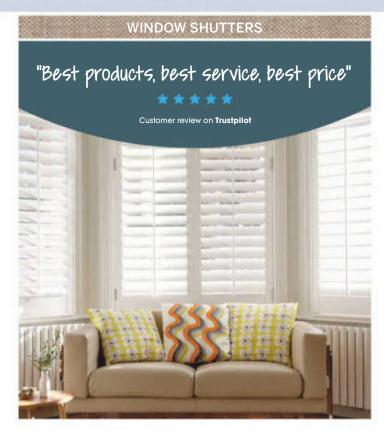
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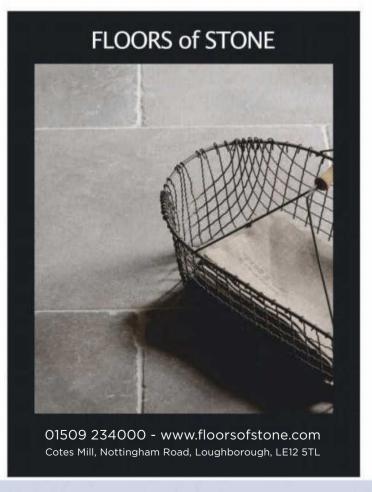


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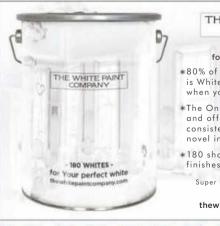




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These are The Big Ones for every Brit's bucket list. Your Easter staycation starts here!



1. CHATSWORTH HOUSE

Derbyshire (chatsworth.org) Sir William Cavendish bought Chatsworth for a mere £600 in 1549 and, after being passed down through 16 generations, it's now the family home of the Duke and Duchess of Derbyshire. It's the stately home everyone's heard of, thanks to the BBC behind-the-scenes documentary and its star role as Mr Darcy's Pemberley in the TV adaptation of Pride & Prejudice (yes, the one with Colin Firth in a wet shirt...). You'll need a whole day to do it justice: with its art collection including ancient Egyptian sculpture and masterpieces by Rembrandt, Renoir and Lucian Freud, its beautifully landscaped grounds complete with 300-yearold cascade, plus its working farm, there's loads to see. Don't miss the brilliant farm shop or the boutique shops specialising in interiors, gardening and children's toys. **Nearby:** In the heart of the Peak District, Chatsworth is surrounded by walking and cycling trails for

2. BLENHEIM PALACE

Oxfordshire (blenheimpalace.com)

outdoorsy types (peakdistrict.gov.uk).

Did you spot it in the latest Bond film, Spectre? Blenheim starred as the Roman palazzo – a role it could pull off thanks to its magnificent baroquestyle architecture by Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor. Allegedly inspired by Versailles, it signalled the start of English Romanticism. The palace was built as a gift from Queen Anne to the First Duke of Marlborough for his victory in the 1704 Battle of Blenheim, but is best known as the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill (there's a special exhibition there to

commemorate 50 years since his death). For a sophisticated day trip, indulge in a smart Sunday lunch in the Orangery, or for a fun family outing, hop on the miniature train to the hedge maze and butterfly garden. Nearby: Go sightseeing in Oxford visit the colleges, take a leisurely punt along the river or try a city tour on two wheels (oxfordbicycletours.com).

3. OSBORNE HOUSE Isle of Wight (english-heritage.org.uk)

Imagine being queen for a day at the once-upon-a-time summer home of Victoria and Albert. The Italian-inspired house reflects the more relaxed side of the usually austere Queen Victoria, and while it might be palatial, Osborne also embodies all the fun and charm of the English seaside. The Queen regularly bathed at the private beach - it's worth the walk down there to see her personal bathing machine, visit the ice-cream parlour and enjoy a slice of Victorian life playing skittles and quoits, or watching a Punch & Judy show. In the gardens you'll find the poshest Wendy house ever - Swiss Cottage - designed between 1853 and 1854 by Albert for his children. **Nearby:** Head to Blackgang Chine to see swashbuckling pirates, cowboys and dinosaurs, as well as rides and games (blackgangchine.com).

4. WADDESDON MANOR

Buckinghamshire (waddesdon.org.uk)

With its medieval maiden's hat-style turrets, Waddesdon looks like a fairy-tale castle. The vision of a banker, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, it took 14 years to complete and hosted the crème de la crème of guests within

royal, cultural and political circles at its glittering house parties. The bachelor's wing, with its billiard room, could have been a 'man cave' for the 19th century. Priceless paintings, porcelain and objets (as you'd expect from a family of fine-art collectors) litter the flambovant décor. Don't miss the wine cellar, housing 100,000 bottles and charting 150 years of Rothschild wine-making history. and look out for the Rothschild mynah bird in the rococo-style aviary. **Nearby:** Stay at the boutique Five Arrows hotel and pick up some designer bargains at Bicester Shopping Village on the way home (bicestervillage.com).

5. HATFIELD HOUSE

Hertfordshire (hatfield-house.co.uk)

Elizabeth I learned she would become queen in the Old Palace (which you can still visit on the estate) and when Hatfield was built by the first Earl of Salisbury, Robert Cecil, in 1611, the breathtaking marble hall was decorated with the famous Rainbow portrait, depicting the new queen as the bringer of peace. The house is a great example of Jacobean architecture - look out for the elaborate stone, marble and mosaic chimneypieces and the beautifully carved Grand Staircase, complete with special gates designed to stop the household dogs getting into the state rooms. Don't miss the blinging gold-covered ceiling in the Long Gallery or Hatfield Park Farm, where there's a mini version of the house in the kids' play area and rare-breed animals to see. **Nearby:** Visit the stunning gardens at specialist horticultural college, Capel

Manor (capelmanorgardens.co.uk).

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